

School Based Leadership Team

September 14, 2021

Meeting Start Time: 2:50 pm.

SBLT members present:

Zimmerman, Vaka, Carruthers, Mitchell Jackson, Jennings (TA Rep), Raines (K), Bostick (1st), Penner (2nd), Miller (4th), Roberts (5th), Cyrus (Specialists),

Balatsias (EC), Lowe (Parent Rep)

Review By-laws

Members were given the opportunity to review the By-laws.

The following roles were filled:

Chairperson: Elizabeth Carruthers

Secretary: Patty Jennings

Time keeper: Damica Mitchell Jackson

Mr. Lowe asked what vehicle parents have to address a concern with a staff member and how parents are informed of this process. Mr. Zimmerman responded that administrators can be emailed directly. Information can be shared via the “Let’s Talk” format, which is on the GCS Home page. SBLT is also one of the vehicles to help facilitate this.

Review of Key Indicators

All team members need to know what are the Key Indicators. Over the next 3 weeks, have a conversation with your grade level team for feedback/input regarding the Key Indicators and report back to SBLT at the October meeting.

Check where we are each quarter and assess what our benchmark is on each indicator as we approach the end of the school year.

The Key Indicators can be found on the Simkins webpage:

About Us—School Leadership Information—Click on the link to access our School Improvement Plan (indistar.org).

Mission and Vision Statements

Mr. Zimmerman would like SBLT members to have a conversation with their team members regarding the Mission and Vision Statements. He pointed out that the Statements were set 8 years ago. Since that time, there has been a change in student demographics and Simkins Elementary is now working to become a STEM school. “The Mission Statement should be the heart of what we do.”

Mr. Zimmerman emphasized the 5 E’s: Educate, Encourage, and Equip with Equity and Excellence. He would like information and feedback from staff and parents. He would like any modifications in place by January 2022.

Miscellaneous

The School/Family Compact: Mr. Zimmerman encourages us to think outside the box on how to increase parent engagement. How will that look? Provide parents a better lens to how we are educating their student.

Questions/Concerns

Ms. Miller (4th grade rep):

When will there be small group support? ILT will be addressing this.

There is an overlap in times and locations regarding recess. It was recommended that the team look at the schedule and report any inconsistencies. The walkie-talkie needs to be taken out at recess.

A question about the need for bathroom breaks during the day. For the time, call the front office for a staff member to come provide a break.

Ms. Penner (2nd grade rep):

Will we continue to send a lunch count email? Other options can be explored with Ms. Mercer, but to continue the email count for the present.

Ms. Bostick (1st grade rep):

When should the Student One cards be sent home? The cards can go home now. Get students accustomed to wearing them. Have not started swiping in car riders. Students who do not have a card will get one after fall pictures.

Ms. Raines (Kindergarten rep):

The cafeteria/lunch procedures are impeding the recess schedule. Can cafeteria deliver to the classes that have chosen to eat in the classroom? Or can a team member (teacher or TA) go to the cafeteria and bring the lunch to the classroom?

Mr. Zimmerman responded there is not enough cafeteria staff to bring lunches to the classroom. Ms. Mercer can be asked if it would be within serving protocols for teacher or TA to pick up lunch order. Another suggestion was to switch recess and lunch times among the grade level. Two classes at recess/three classes in the cafeteria and then switch.

Regarding parent involvement. Ms. Raines referenced “Parent Club” as a way to inform parents of instructional time and to receive feedback regarding lessons.

Ms. Raines offered to conduct a workshop in Freedom School Chants, which help build morale.

Mrs. Mitchell Jackson stated that the budget is “healthy” at this time.

Balatsias:

EC will be designating time for intensives with students as EC TAs help with small groups. Remember the 4:1 ratio with students to empower them to make better choices.

Next Meeting: October 12, 2021

Meeting End Time: 4:10 pm