

Call to order

A meeting of the Sarah Smith Elementary GO Team was held at IC Media Center on 2/27/17. The meeting was called to order at 3:20 p.m.

Attendees

Attendees included Attendees included:

Dr. Michael Forehand

Ms. Elizabeth Cox

Dr. Sherry Riley

Ms. Jana Thomas

Ms. Chiesa Carter

Ms. Laura Troup

Mr. Robert Sarkissian

Ms. Christina Barnette

Mr. Alfonso Champion

Guests: Noletha High w/APS, Angela Smith w/APS

Members not in attendance

Ms. Shirley Smith

Approval of minutes

It was noted to include more detail in future minutes.

Previous minutes were approved. Alfonso Champion motioned to approve, Robert Sarkissian seconded.

Reports

- Information from the CCRPI consultant meeting was discussed. Subgroup performance in subject areas-the chart shows decline in specific subgroups (some of the same students are in the same categories). Our CCRPI composite was 86 and she felt that a school in our

demographic should be in the high nineties. All goals were discussed, including focusing on subgroups to improve graduation rates. Currently, according to statistical indicators, 4 out of 10 SRS students won't graduate from high school. Goals that the CCRPI consultant created were made based on our CCRPI standards, our data, and her expertise. SRS plans to invite the consultant to return and present her findings to all faculty. It was noted that a recording of her presentation would be helpful for those who can't attend--assuming it is acceptable to her.

- School Calendar- Next year's calendar has six one-week breaks throughout the year. We are investigating revising the calendar among our cluster as part of our School-Based-Solution. Concerns of loss of academics over the summer as well as absences of students was discussed. The change would involve one day off per holiday such as President's Day rather than a week as planned on the current calendar for next year. Possible links with communities to help with childcare support this new schedule was discussed. It was decided to revisit after discussion with other GO Teams in our cluster.
- Dr. Forehand reviewed what took place in our previous meetings: Approval of FY '18 Budget-"Status quo" budget was approved. Various scenarios were discussed. Dr. Forehand expressed that the GO Team is a work in progress and we are constantly learning. At budget approval meetings, all schools in district approved a number, not positions. At our budget approval meeting, we requested options and details. Dr. Forehand clarified previous discussions including that the budget was approved, knowing Dr. Forehand made personnel decisions. The strategic plan was reviewed and priorities were shared with public in attendance. The purpose of the budget approval was to approve a number, not positions. After our meeting, Dr. Forehand attended a staffing conference in which the standard of service requirements was discussed. Certain positions must stay to meet standards of service. Discussion of Title 1 schools and their instructional specialists was discussed in that those teachers are able to attend trainings, funded by APS etc to implement curriculum. This concern has been discussed among other schools in our cluster.
- Concerns about the role of the GO Team were discussed. Noletha High explained that she has heard similar complaints regarding flexibility that we have and the budget voting. She stated that austerity cuts are limiting the GO Team and the budget approval process. She agreed that the process was quick and we were not as informed as we needed to be. A question was raised about the district paying for IB fees. John Denine is continuing to gather information. Gifted training money is coming from this current FY budget. The face to face gifted training option can be taken through the district. Signature fund money was used to prepay gifted training. A question was raised about the budget based

on population and could it be linear vs. a step function. Projections next year are 35 students short of 1,000. 24 other schools are in similar situations. If we get 1,000 students enrolled, we get 2-3 teachers, .5 counselor, 1 media specialist, for each student \$101.21/pupil and additional dollars based on free and reduced lunch among other programs (Flex spending). One week in May-anticipates a “true-up” for budget adjustments. Budget commission has discussed austerity cut. Some board members voiced concern about schools taking brunt of austerity cuts. District budget must be adopted by June. If we increase enrollment, the APS demographer will need to revisit the situation. The population shift was discussed in that budget is based on previous years, before there was shift in our demographic, despite us having 2nd highest ESOL population. IB vs. foreign language specialists and corresponding budgets was discussed.

- Possible Scenario 1: Austerity money comes back and John Denine approves IB/Foreign Language.
- Possible Scenario 2: Increase registration, encourage people in the community to register on time.
- The dual role of RTI and instructional coach role was defined: Mr. Champion is “50%” coach and “50%” RTI. Explained that it is too big for one person. The two roles conflict as one role suffers more than the other. The instructional coach will be split among counselors and assistant principals.
- Is there a possibility that there could be help in the budget based on our demographic? Angela will be presenting this information to the Budget Commission.
- Data was shared about the demographic projections of previous years near registration. There is a downward trend. Intent to enroll was recommended to show support for the projection.
- It was suggested that staff and/or volunteers should visit some key neighborhoods to inform parents about the school registration process and perhaps offer remote registration so that we have a better idea of how many new students will be attending SRS next year.

Public Comment:

Kelly McQueen- media specialist at IC, committed to collaborate with teachers to help CCRPI scores, registered for workshop to help make PYP a center of learning, works with Prissy Stewart

Emily Ferencik- Testament to Prissy, concern about Book Fair-earned \$7,000

Annie Cecil- “Our kids first”-look at impact that people have on kids, Prissy initiated discussions, projects based on CCRPI scores.

Terry Abromitis- Positive impact of media specialists, constantly learning literacy skills in media center, research and information

