

Matagorda ISD SITE-BASED DECISION MAKING COMMITTEE
Minutes March 22, 2015

Introductions were made. Signatures will reflect those in attendance.

The main purpose of the meeting was to:

- Determine needs and recommendations for 2015-16 Campus Improvement Plan
- Discuss other comments or concerns

Mrs. Phillips gave a summary of the district 2013-14 Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR) and identified some targeted areas in need of academic improvement.

Members then worked in small groups to brainstorm targeted areas of need that already improve student achievement or need to be identified for change in order to improve student achievement.

The findings were reported and discussed in a large group setting as follows:

ACADEMICS

What is working?

- Staying on the cusp of newest STAAR based curriculums
- Staying updated with education changes
- Adopting new curriculums
- Resource room availability
- After school tutorials
- Vertical alignment

Areas in need of Improvement:

- More funding for supplemental materials, supplies, and instructional assistance
- Having enough materials/students sharing does not work
- ESL pullout teacher needing teacher editions for 6-8th
- How to teach kids to slow down and read directions, absorb material = retention
- Homework difficulty with parents
- 6 weeks agenda for parents for each subject

INVOLVEMENT

What is working?

- Home projects each six weeks
- Parents attending special events
- Community involved in fund raising
- Open door policy makes parents feel welcome

Areas in Need of Improvement:

- No parents involvement in Jr. High
- Always same parents who come
- Instructions for projects in Spanish too
- Should not have to “give “ parents something for them to be involved
- Lack of parent backing for discipline and classwork

TECHNOLOGY

What is working?

- Blackboard connect
- Additional drops
- Internet access improved
- Latest devices
- Students prefer ipads
- Games, ed games
- Curriculum more tech infused

Areas in Need of Improvement

- Extra reference websites
- Websites explained better
- Better internet
- More wireless cords
- Add computer lab to library
- Have enough for all students
- Have a cart with enough devices for a class set
- Station or center for each class 3-5

CLIMATE

What is working?

- Family feel
- A.R.E.
- Everyone treats each other like family
- Equal importance
- Staff get together

Areas in need of Improvement:

- Communication among staff as well as parents
- Life baggage
- Large group scenarios with students better managed
- More communication and involvement across the board

STAFF

What is working?

- Superb
- Parent issues with staff have been resolved quickly

- Staff morale is good
- Qualified training available
- Training for parents/Eduhero & Spanish available
- Flexibility
- PK's lower numbers
- 3:00 dismissal

Areas in Need of Improvement:

- Need third teacher for middle school
- Another aide in lower grades
- More staff/aides/teachers
- More parent volunteers
- More positive feedback to parents from staff
- Additional staff for growing classes
- Additional staff for maintenance
- Substitutes for custodial help

Additional discussion included ideas that developed concerning effective activities and or strategies that can evolve out of these needs. These included:

- Budgeting more funds for additional staff
- Developing a parent volunteer program to help meet the needs of students
- Find additional ways to communicate with parents like teacher web pages
- Staff checking email every day for better communication among colleagues
- Arrange for professional development in (1) Learning how to deal with students who bring "baggage from home", (2) How to teach students to slow down and read instructions in the fast pace world the live in, (3) And peer visits to other campuses for behavioral management of large group settings.
- Enlarge the Spanish translation media outreach to include school supply lists and parental involvement projects, etc.
- Extend afterschool tutorials with parents for other infractions like organization of binders, cleanout of locker, etc.
- Budget money for a technology cart
- Encourage staff with stipend opportunities
- Increase the bandwidth of the internet
- Order curriculum materials early so that they are here before the school year starts
- Provide more opportunities for staff to get together for social gatherings

The floor was opened for any additional comments or concerns surrounding student affairs. None were brought to our attention at this time

All of these findings will be used to help revise the District Improvement Plan for the 2015-16 school year, at the next meeting on May 1, 2015.