

Superintendent's Lay Advisory Council (SLAC)

November 13, 2023

6:30 p.m-8:29 p.m.

MINUTES

Members Present

Superintendent Robin Felty

Secretaries: Jennifer Spatz & Laura Boniello Miller

HS

1. Jill Speizer
2. Laura Boniello Miller
3. Sharee Livingston-Anderson
4. Rebecca Harper

MS

1. Anne Marie Swinehart

Landis Run

1. Jackie Wachinski
2. Janny Kim Lee
3. Meghan Keller

Brecht

1. Nikita Nunemacher
2. Abby Fiorentino
3. Michael King

Bucher

1. Elizabeth (Libby) Muehlbach
2. Jadie Catania
3. Soraya Hintz

Neff

1. Kisha Johnson
2. Lori DeTemple

Nitrauer

1. Allie Hardy
2. Nancy Izquieta
3. Danielle Schmehl

Reidenbaugh

1. Carolyn Garneau
2. Madison South
3. Melissa Grosh

Schaeffer

1. Herlie Velez
2. Emily Hosey
3. Jennifer Spatz

Members Absent

HS: Renee Suydam

Neff: Rachel Levine

AGENDA Call to order (6:34pm)

- Welcome and Introductions
- Approval of September 2023 Meeting Minutes
 - ■ Motion: Sharee Livingston
 - ■ 2nd: Danielle Schmehl
- **SLAC Communication with PTOs/Parent Advisory Group** - Dr. Felty discussed that all school PTOs are doing things differently (e.g., personal emails, PTO emails). Dr. Felty and Dr. Dale Reimann will follow up with principals to work on creating a cohesive approach for communication.
- **MT School Community Demographics & State Assessment Data:** (Mrs. Jessica O’Gorman, Dr. Sharon Schaefer, Dr. Dale Reimann)
 - Enrollment Data for 23-24 school year 6,018 total students in MTSD
 - Average class size is 463.
 - 62% white
 - 16% Hispanic
 - 9.7% Asian
 - 6.73% Multi Racial
 - 5.72% Black
 - Other data on slides
 - 34.16% of our students have free and reduced lunches.
 - Special Education, English Learners, and Gifted Students
 - 16.38% Special education
 - 5.38% ELL
 - 7.83% Gifted
 - Residents but not enrolled in MTSD are enrolled in the following platform.
 - Private 79.71%
 - Homeschool 10.72%
 - Cyber Charter School 8.95%
 - Charter 0.62%

- Manheim Township Academic Growth and Achievement Data
 - **“Who” Takes These Tests**
 - PSSA
 - ELA; grades 3-8
 - Science; grades 4 and 8
 - Keystone Exams
 - Follow Trigger Courses
 - Algebra 1
 - Biology (10th grade)
 - Literature (10th grade)
 - PASA; students with IEPs who require alternate state assessments based on their needs.
 - English Learners
 - Outputs
 - **PVAAS (Growth) Data**
 - Pennsylvania’s Value-Added Assessment System
 - It captures growth and achievement.
 - Growth Measure: estimate of the academic growth the student makes on average.
 - Standard Error: the amount of statistical evidence that the student exceeded, met, or fell short of the standard.
 - Growth Index
 - Growth Color Indicator (well above, above, meets, below, well below)
 - Reviewed grade level growth standards (in PowerPoint)
 - Data tells us what happened - it does not say why.
 - **Achievement Data**
 - Slide show visually displays snapshots of PSSA summary.
 - Also includes summary of scores of MTSD students compared to state averages.
 - Slide show displays snapshots of Literature Keystone
 - Math Achievement Data (3-8)
 - Summarizes snapshots of data and compares MTSDs results to the state.
 - Middle School - Algebra Keystone - snapshot of students who take this assessment.
 - High School Math - Algebra Keystone - snapshot of students who take this assessment.
 - Science Achievement Data (4 and 8 - Biology Keystone)
 - Dr. Sharon Schaefer
 - 8th Grade Science PSSA Data
 - Look at growth and achievement together.
 - 10th grade biology keystone data - well above state average
 - Next Steps With Data
 - Recognize areas of strength and areas of continuous improvement
 - Continued Implementation of MTSS
 - Utilize district data protocols.

- Continued work with curriculum, instruction, and assessment
- Continued to focus on district programming.
- Continued to focus on professional learning needs.

○ Questions?

- Michael King - Is there any thought of an introduction to the bigger school to help the students adjust?
 - Answer: That is a focus area for us - making sure we are acclimating students and using a team's approach
- Nancy Izquieta - When you look at data - does this make you want to spend more time on having students take practice exams?
 - Answer: We want to make sure our curriculum is aligned with standards using great common assessments, so we know we are preparing them. We are not after teaching to the test - but rather meaningful material for the students.
- Laura Boniello Miller - Is there attention or initiatives that are addressing the middle performing students?
 - Answer: This is part of our MTSS framework - those universal screening tools are helping us inform instruction to ensure growth for all of our students
- Janny Kim Lee - It is my understanding that the ELA curriculum changed and was curious if that change was accounted for in this data? If not, how is the new program addressed to learn more and achieve more growth?
 - Answer: Last year was our first year to implement the curriculum and yes - this is a piece of the puzzle that helps inform us. We examine the curriculum to determine how the resource is impacting the achievement of our students.
- Melissa Dellacroce-Grosh - We have been concerned with the COVID dip we observed, and it seems like everything is upward trending - which is positive and speaks to the value of teaching.

- Shannon - Can you address TDA's purpose?
 - Answer:
 - TDA - Text Dependent Analysis - the skill itself is reading and comprehending text.
 - Also being able to write about the text.
 - Read grade level, infer, form thoughts and then be able to write about it.

PTO Sharing - Reflections & Questions

● School Board representatives for MT schools

- Dr. Felty asks the school board members if they prefer keeping the same school or if they want to move to another school. This assignment has not been made yet. 12/4 Monday - Board Reorganization Meeting - this is where new members are sworn in for election years and non-election years board vote on dates for board meeting dates and roles are voted on.
- What are their duties? They attend events and/or communicate with principals. They report happenings each month.
- PTO can invite board member to special events (e.g., art show, STEM fest) ■
Question: By 12/4/2023 you will know school assignments - how will we know?

- It will be on the school board website and each principal will communicate board member representative.

● Addressing increased student enrollment - MTSD has gotten a comprehensive analysis of our facilities - it is a work in progress for our growth capacity. Most significant area of development is Reidenbaugh. We have space for growth and discussing ideas on how to use the building attached to Neff Elementary.

- Question: Is it true that MTSD verbally signed off on a 10-year contract to have Spanish Immersion at Reidenbaugh?

- Answer: No - we did not but we do take moving seriously.

- Question: Would the wing we rent out to IU-13 at Reidenbaugh move before moving Spanish Immersion?

- Answer: We value the IU-13, and we will engage in close dialogue with them and if we move them we would look for another space at MTSD for the IU-13.

● Recess time - Has the district considered more fresh air time for students?

- Answer:

- Elementary, Landis Run, and MS - there is scheduled recess times, but teachers have flexibility to take them out in addition to that

- Dr. Felty will have dialogue with principals as Landis Run and MS to encourage teachers to go outside.

- Q: Is there a general philosophy that you would like to promote to encourage going outside as opposed to using it as punishment when a student misbehaves (e.g., miss recess for behaviors) since it is probably during these times when the student needs to move around.

- Answer: Dr. Felty encouraged parents to communicate with teacher or principal to see if there is something else to take away besides recess
- **Timeline for returning graded assignments.**
 - Assignments are to be graded and put into the gradebook within five days.
 - If this does not happen - reach out to principal or teacher
- **PE classes with heart rate monitors -**
 - SLAC member comments/questions: students who are physically fit cannot get their heart rate up, so they are not passing PE
 - Dr. Felty reviewed history of PE requirements for athletes.
 - Dr. Felty encouraged students and parents to discuss concerns with PE teacher.
 - Dr. Felty offered another discussion with HS principals and athletic director to discuss concerns - SLAC members indicated they would like reform and not continued conversation.
 - SLAC Comment: The heart rate monitor lacks scientific significance, does not consider health vs. equity concerns, lacks the big picture.

Q/A

SLAC member comment : Thursday at 6:30pm Brecht is having an international day - and all are invited.

SLAC member comment: We need more recess.