

Norwood Public Schools Board of Education
Principals Report
11-19-18

Respectfully Submitted by Perri Gipner and Sara Rasmussen

Behavior
<p>Behavior trends are positive. The technical assistance provided to teachers on November 9th helped clarify procedures and answer questions. Teachers discussed re-teaching expectations as we move into part of the school year that is historically sees an uptick in negative behaviors.</p> <p><u>Freedom from Chemical Dependency (FCD) Summary from Rick Williams:</u> During the post visit meeting with FCD, I met with George who is one of the two FCD counselors who came to speak with our students, and I discussed the program, their visit and trends. George indicated that our student population today is doing much better than ten years ago regarding at risk behaviors as defined by alcohol and drug use/abuse based on comparing two student surveys given last year and ten years ago respectively. We also discussed how to include staff in their next visit in October 2019.</p> <p><u>Mental Health Update from Rick Williams:</u> We currently do not have dedicated mental health support at our school with the departure of Lindsay from her position at the Center for Mental Health (CMH). Jenny, the CMH Regional Director and myself have been in numerous discussions regarding coverage as the CMH attempts to fill the vacant position with another therapist. Currently, we will have a therapist on campus as much as her schedule with her current commitments will allow to see those students already enrolled for services. Until we have a dedicated replacement, we will not be able to refer new students to been seen at our school for mental health support services.</p>
Communication
<p>We continue to utilize our website, Facebook, all-call system, and LCD at Clark's market to keep parents informed. Ken Lawrence just received a a JFK grant for \$2,308 to purchase equipment for a radio sound studio. KOTO will be providing our students air time once a week to put on our own radio program.</p>
Personnel Development
<p>The second Safe, Supportive and Collaborative Climate (SSaCC) day was November 9th. We began with celebrations and acknowledgements of our amazing staff and students. Perri and Sara provided technical assistance on the behavior toolkit to elementary and secondary teachers. Teachers who were unable to attend are meeting with the principals individually to get the same technical assistance. Teacher mentors also met with their mentees and the afternoon included work on elementary math interventions, learning target development, and a crisis team work session.</p>

Individual Personnel Development Opportunities since the last board meeting:

- Catherine Kolbet and Warren Taylor attended the Colorado Association of Science Teachers conference on November 9th. Warren shared that he learned how to get the students more involved in the classroom through exciting hands-on labs, and through group work. He also learned about many fun activities that take low cost items to use.
- Abbie Mahlin attended the Colorado Art Education Association conference on November 9th multiple workshops on Teaching Artistic Behavior (TAB) which encompasses problem-solving, risk-taking and learning how to use materials to apply one's own originality. She also was trained in Design Thinking which can be applied throughout content areas.
- Catherine Kolbet will also be attending the Supervised Agricultural Conference on November 15th and 16th to learn more about experiential learning.
- Ellen Metrick performed in Our Town at the Ouray Opera House and our entire middle school attended the student performance.
- Austin Smith, Kelly Sutherlin, Ashley Sutherlin, Kate Andrews, Jessica Johnson and Robin Snyder attended the Crisis Prevention and Intervention training to maintain their certification for de-escalation and restraint.
- Terry Snow attended the Gifted and Talented Conference. She shared, "First let me start off by saying, thank you all off letting me attend the conference. The conference was very informative for me because this is my first year in the GT program. There were multiple things that I learned at the conference. The one session that I went to was Gifted Kids: Managing the Piece That's Disturbing the Peace. This session focuses on Positive Cognitive Behavioral Techniques to help gifted students (or any) on how to deal with their anxiety. I also feel the session Strategies for Mental Health Support was very informative. The group learned how to use strategies to meet the social emotional needs of gifted (all) learners. Ways to use social emotional skills within the small group or classroom setting. I also enjoyed going to listen to Robert Seney, he is a Professor at the Mississippi University for Women, he reads books and then gives his list of books he recommends for gifted students to read to get the creative, appropriate reading they need. I brought the list back for our librarians to see if we could get some of these for the GT students to read."
- Rick Williams attended the CMAS Administrative training for spring 2019 state testing.
- Sue Williams attended the Goedustar training conference and benefited from making face to face connections with other rural schools and learned more details about Civil Rights Data Report.
- ELG Consultation (1st-4th grade teachers met with Amy for a half day each): Shera Nuttall shared that she had a lot of questions answered as well as some positive direction to take to her instruction. Amy was able to help her look at the skill levels of her students and give her direction in small grouping strategies for her students.

Time

Sara and Perri have doubled their walk-throughs in classrooms from last year. Sara is focusing on number corner, explicit phonics instruction, morphology and comprehension.

Perri works one on one with two teachers weekly to co-plan and write learning targets and supports Samantha Jacobs with freshman English during small group writing intervention. Both Perri and Sara provide specific feedback on learning targets to all teachers using a learning target component rubric.

Four-Day School Week

Kelly Sutherland reports that Friday intervention is going great. We currently have sixteen students attending every Friday. Our main focus is reading. Students are split into five groups based on their reading levels. For each student's intervention we are working on phonemic awareness, reading comprehension, and letter sounds. While Kelly works with students in their intervention groups the other teacher is supervising individualized work in Lexia, Reflex math, and any work from their teachers. Teachers have been pleased with the results thus far and we have been receiving positive feedback from parents and students alike. Next month we hope to add math intervention work as well.

Secondary intervention Friday's are in process. We are awaiting the PSAT scores to identify students who would benefit from additional support. Scores will not be available until early December.

Other Important Information

Family Literacy Night was held on November 13th. We had around 30 families participate. During this time, the kids were able to meet with Leslie Sherlock. Leslie read the book she wrote and illustrated to the students. She also spent time sharing the process she went through to become a published author. Each student was given her book which was signed by her. Parents also were given information on the importance of reading to their children and then were given some time to sit down and enjoy a book together.

Recent Grant Recipients:

- Ben Kirk was awarded \$3,000 towards tuition assistance for the ski program to get kids aged 4th grade - 8th grade on the mountain from JFK.
- Ken Lawrence was awarded \$2308 to purchase equipment for a radio sound studio. KOTO will be providing our students air time once a week to put on our own radio program from JFK.
- Kathryn Westcott was awarded \$3500 from the State Grants for Libraries to share between the secondary and elementary library.