

Directors' Report

CCS Board of Education Meeting, November 20, 2023

Strategic planning focus groups have been conducted with staff, students, and parents/guardians from both programs. The strategic planning team met to identify themes in our "Desired Daily Experiences" and a survey is currently out to students, staff, and parents/guardians to get additional input on these experiences. Annette and Holly have been working quite closely with Julie behind the scenes in addition to these scheduled meetings.

Multiple required reports and assurances have been submitted in advance of their deadlines - WBWF/Annual Report, Charter School Assurances, Annual Assurances. Abi Swenson is working on our WBWF Summary report that is due to MDE by 12/15.

We have applied for a grant to support MTSS coordination in our school programs. The full amount for 3 years is \$375,000 to be divided equally each year.

ReGroup Therapy is up and running as an option for our students. Families can fill out the referral form online or connect with the school social worker in either program to get connected.

Online Program

Enrollment: Currently we are at 316 enrolled students (25:K-5, 33:6-8, 258:9-12) plus 2 tuition-paying students (out-of-state or homeschooled).

We have filled our final open position of a .5 learning coach. Given the enrollment needs of our growing student population, we have a few teachers who will be qualifying for overage pay at the end of the semester. I will keep a close eye on this and see how things may need to be re-assigned for second semester and/or if additional staff may be needed.

Our online program has developed a partnership with a new group home for young women who are survivors of trafficking - Freedom Ranch. They will be enrolling as students in our online program and we are working to train and prepare the staff who will be working most closely with them.

After a number of feedback sessions with all online staff, we have decided on a direction for how we want to measure and collect student engagement data this year. Each coach will be meeting with their students individually to go through their graduation plan and set a goal date for graduation, as well as documenting their postsecondary plans. More details and information about these plans will be forthcoming as we implement the process.

At our November staff development meeting, we received some more excellent mental health training from ReGroup Counseling that was focused on anxiety in students. Additionally, ReGroup is starting a new student group that will meet weekly.

We have some funds that need to be spent on summer and extended school day programs. We are looking at what some options might be for our online students to go on some field trips, perhaps to the Boundary Waters or other EE-focused endeavors.

Seat Based Program

We have had an incredibly busy fall! Recently, the PTO sponsored spaghetti dinner fundraiser netted over \$6000. What a very fun night! The Halloween parade was again a great time! What an awesome community. The second and third grade class has begun going to the assisted living facility to read books and play bingo. Our Veterans Day program was, in my opinion, the best we have ever had! The community involvement is at a great level!

The initial news of the READ Act was a little daunting, to be honest. However, Melanie Donley and Abi Swenson have done amazing work to dissect and discover what we need to do to get things in place for this undertaking. We are well ahead of the game on this topic.

The students and staff are enjoying the relationships in and out of the classrooms. The intentional part of this is really helping behaviors. That doesn't mean we don't have issues, but we are noticing that things are manageable. We are still having our first Wednesday of the month celebrations. The classrooms are having their own celebrations and the middle school has incorporated the hall of fame, where people get nominated and recognized for certain things.

We are looking at some social emotional curriculum that can be used within the classroom for all students. This is part of our summer funding money ideas for spending.

The LAKE foundation continues to be incredible to work with. They have been very helpful with building issues that have arisen. We truly appreciate them.

Our enrollment continues to climb slightly each month. However, we will be losing a few students who have the privilege of living in a warm climate for the winter.

We are grateful to the Crosslake Police Department for their nearly daily presence in our building. It's fun to watch the kids interact with the officers. The officers usually say "Wow, these kids are so cute!" 😊