

Rocky Boy Elementary Board Report September 2019



By Clintanna Colliflower

PreK-6 Elementary Principal

Curriculum & Instruction: Our consumable orders for our reading and math were not ordered until a week before school started. Teachers are struggling in prepping materials when the materials are not available. We are in our fourth week of school and our materials are still not here. Our network system is functioning inconsistently, which makes it hard for our teachers to complete the beginning of the year assessments on time or use online resources for our reading and math. We have a lot of issues with our technology not being available and ready to put into the hands of the staff and students. Our school has updated to Windows 10 which requires all students to have a login, including Kindergarten and First grade students which is stressful for the teachers. We have Darcie Doney working on enrolling each student with a user name and password, she ran into a snag of running out of licenses.

Supervision & Evaluation: I will start an observation signup sheet to spend at least an hour with each teacher. I have conducted quick walkthroughs once a week. We have had an increase in leave being used since the first week of school. One teacher has already used a full 3 days of leave within the first ten days of school. I addressed this in a staff meeting and let them know its unacceptable and to be mindful of their leave. The first couple weeks of school is crucial for students in setting rules, routines, procedures, and developing relationships. I have filed one letter of reprimand due to insubordination, with a paraprofessional. I have prescheduled all of my colony trips once a month with Michelle Lindbloom at East End Colony. Melissa Han overseas the Hilldale with Reba Domire.

Culture & Language: We have met to discuss and plan Native American Week. I sent the elementary Cree language teacher to a community meeting. We need to get further in detail with our plans, call consultants, and ask the Superintendent for funds to bring in consultants, supplies, and materials.

Behavior Management: So far our behavior has been minimal. We had one student walk away from school on September 9, 2019. We contacted the police for help but they said they cannot do anything unless the parent is there. Meanwhile, the Dean of Students walked with him, I followed him in my vehicle. We waited at the store until his Grandma came. He refused to come back to school and refused to speak to us or ride with us. We have, for sure, two teachers attempting to implement Restorative Justice Circles. They are our fifth grade teachers. I would like to send them to actual Restorative Justice Training. We are waiting to hear back from the PAXIS Good Behavior Trainers to see when they can come to our school. My suggestion was to split the training into two after school sessions so that we could get the majority of the staff trained. I have not heard back from the PAXIS company, last I knew they were looking for an Indigenous Consultant to train our staff.

Daily Management: Michelle Lindbloom has been in contact with Glacier National Park for an educational field trip with our fifth grade classes. The superintendent approved the field trip, teachers are on board for an over night trip on September 19 & 20. They will stay in Kalispell. I sent three new teachers to a FREE CSPD Reading Training in Havre on September 10, 2019. I would like to take advantage of more FREE training for our staff. I feel like this school year has started off in the wrong lead and as a school system we need to come up with solutions on how to make this a better place for all stakeholders. Our buildings weren't ready, our distribution of Plain Green and Native American Partnership school supplies were a cluster all over our building, in disarray, our purchase orders submitted in May were not order, neither were our new desks and chairs for third grade. Our school improvement consultant skipped our September meeting because his contracts were not paid. We had classrooms moving two days before school started and lost curriculum materials. Teachers and paraprofessionals started utilizing leaving as soon as school was in session. Para's are testing authority and arguing amongst one another when one isn't present at their scheduled recess schedule. There is a lot of childish unprofessional behaviors in the air. My first two years as the principal things were never in a disarray as they are now. The focus of what's best for our students is being taken away by the adult who are hired to help them. Our students matter and deserve to come to school in a happy, safe learning environment. I know I am to facilitate the elementary school in a business like fashion, but I am not a business major, I am an educator. I am and will always be a teacher before a business person. I also had several concerns with the school lock down we had on Friday September 5, 2019. The communication between the two buildings is weak. Our communication system in our building is old and outdated. We have intercoms that do not reach every office, we have phones that have a capabilities of utilizing for all call, but then our classrooms do not have phones. I had my counselors wondering the hallways during the lockdown. They do not have the loud speaker/intercoms in their offices. As a parent, with my own children on campus, I was scared as well. No one communicated why we were on lockdown and who called. I cannot respond to parents as to why the lockdown took place. I had to read about it on social media by a non-district employee, who acted as a spokesman for the school district, giving an unofficial statement, as well as complaints of our school being unprofessional by a janitor's wife. There are many internal pieces that need to be fixed for the system to run smoothly. We do need to start practicing lockdown drills and fixing our system for communication within our school district and how to distribute it to the parents. The police and tribal entities need to be involved in our safety process. My Dean and myself will be working on an action plan on how to address these issues and hopefully.