



February 19, 2019 School Board Meeting – Elementary Communications
Jeanne A. Svobodny, Principal

Committees/Teams Who Met Since the January Board Meeting

1. Our 3-5 Response Team met and discussed individual student concerns. We have had very few K-2 student referrals as specific interventions are being implemented and progress monitored.
2. Site Council Leadership Team met on 1/10. Council members discussed the following: (1) The plan for our January 21st half in-service day which was to have PLT teams/departments work together with Nick, Peter, or Jeanne on a topic of high importance to them; (2) The information and data that they will be sharing with parents during our February conferences. (3) Peter explained that he wanted all teachers to reflect on the work they have been doing through their portfolio. Peter asked that teachers report out to him a few of their reflections so he can assess his effectiveness in supporting them. (4) Teachers reported that Target/Intervention time (WIN) is going well this year since we made a minor adjustment of special education services being scheduled during their target time. (5) Since we identified our grade level essential reading and math skills approximately 11 years ago, members agreed that teams should revisit them, especially in vertical teams, to make sure standards are aligned and not duplicated. Teams met with their facilitator for an hour and then carried on their topic work for another 2 hours. Teachers reported that they are able to accomplish a lot of planning and work on these types of in-service days.
3. Our MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support) team met on February 11. At this point, we the team is trying to refine our process of identifying students with significant behavior or social-emotional needs. Currently all classroom teachers complete the Saebrs Social Emotional Rating Assessment on all of their students in the fall, winter and spring. By doing this, we are able to identify the students who the teachers rate as having significant concerns. We wanted to cross-check this information by having students complete the MySaebrs assessment to see how they rate themselves in these areas. Mrs. Bestor organized the administration of MySaebrs to our fifth grade students. All students took the assessment but with the snow days, she has not been able to meet with the fifth grade teachers to discuss the results. At the Feb. 11th meeting, the team decided to move forward and have third and fourth grade students complete the MySaebrs to collect more data. The fifth grade administration went smoothly and only took about 15 minutes so the MTSS team felt it would be useful to have 3rd and 4th grade results as well as 5th grade.

In our effort to provide a strong Tier I Core program for behavior and social-emotional functioning, we are revisiting the use of The Responsive Classroom (RC). I shared our history of being trained in RC and the use of its components within our building.

Available training materials were shared. We will discuss the use of RC practices at our next site team meeting.

General Information

4. Paras participated in a training during our early release on Friday, January 18 which was very helpful to them. One of our new special education teachers, Chelsea Stadvold, shared with them valuable information to remember when working with students who have escalated behaviors. She shared a program called Zones or Regulations where students identify the zone their emotions are in (green, yellow, red, blue) and then to identify their level of reaction. Does their level of reaction match the zone of their emotions? Paras reported this was very helpful information.
5. Feedback from our January 21 half in-service day for teachers was very positive. Teams met with their facilitator (Nick, Peter or Jeanne) for an hour and then continued to work on their identified topic work for another 2 hours. Teachers reported they accomplish a lot of planning and work using this format for in-service.
6. Dick Skillstead led the first graders in a Flag Presentation on February 1. The students always enjoy the information shared about the flag and people who serve in the military.
7. February is “I Love to Read” month. Mrs. Magnuson, our ADSIS Reading Interventionist, has planned numerous activities to encourage the love of reading. On Monday’s during morning announcements, Mrs. Magnuson is sharing tidbits to generate interest in reading. such as reading some quotes from books and seeing which class matches the most quotes with the correct books. Wednesdays’ are designated as “Wear clothing with words” so students can practice more reading.
8. February 18 – 22 is designated as “Random Acts of Kindness” week. Mrs. Bestor, our ADSIS Behavior Interventionist, is organizing activities for this week. We will be doing a lot with this as it fits well with our social vision statement, “At Dover-Eyota Elementary School, we are kind.”
9. The Student Council’s Pennies-for-Patients drive is currently underway. PreK – 5th grade students will be bringing in their pennies and coins to raise money for leukemia research. The student council has also created a Wall of Honor to recognize and honor individuals who are or have experienced cancer. Both events began February 4 and will go through February 22.
10. Math Wizard & Academic Triathlon teams continue to do very well in their competitions. Teams have earned a variety of first, second and third places with several students placing first, second or third in the individual events as well.
11. PATT held an amazing Bingo Night in the elementary cafeteria on Friday Feb. 1. Approximately 125 attended this first ever, family Bingo event! Those who won the round of Bingo were able to pick out a book and a toy which were all donated items. It was so fun watching parents and children playing and interacting together. Many participates requested another Bingo Night. After being inside for 4 snow days, families were ready to get out and have some fun!

12. I completed the Early Childhood application for Pathway II Scholarships as it is due to MDE on February 25. If approved, we will be awarded \$15,000 to use for preschool scholarships in 2019-20 and another \$15,000 to use in 2020-21,
13. I am working on completing amendments to our Title I application. There is a March Amendment window when changes are due to MDE.
14. I attended the Minnesota Elementary School Principal's Association (MESPA) state convention on February 6 & 7. I will share more about this at the board meeting.
15. On Tuesday February 5, our learning readiness teachers, Ms. Nicole Einsman, Mrs. Michelle McNallan, and Mrs. Kimberly Schlueter, conducted a wonderful evening with Donuts, Dinosaurs and Dads. They had a plethora of very fun dinosaur activities for the dads and children to do. Even though it was a very snowy evening, 125 attended which was awesome! Kuddos to our LRP teachers and staff!
16. Our school was offered the opportunity to have WSU graduate school counseling students come and teach several lessons to our students. Topics of the lessons include building friendship skills, identifying emotions, conflict resolution tips, etc. The graduate students will teach a lesson to a whole class as well as facilitate a small group. Each of our 1st-5th classes will participate in this opportunity.

Up-Coming Events

17. Classroom Valentine Parties are on Thursday February 14.
18. Students will be participating in Jump Rope/Hoops for Heart during their physical education classes in late February.
19. Elementary Conferences on Monday, February 25 and Thursday, February 28.
20. PATT Book Fair will be held during the week of conferences, February 25-28.