

Napi Elementary Board Report September 2016

Napi Elementary staff, students, and parents have successfully completed their first week of the 2016-2017 academic year! Returning 5th and 6th graders came in like pros and were great role models for the 4th graders as we practiced MBI universals in the cafeteria, playground, hallway, and assemblies during our first week. We had our Welcome Back assembly on the first day of school to thank students and staff for being here and wishing everyone a fabulous year! Grade level teams also had an opportunity to show their school spirit as Mr. Croff lead them in completing the wave multiple times!

Fifth and sixth graders were able to model for their new teachers and classmates how to operate through our new school practice for breakfast, which is "Breakfast to Go." The morning bell rings at 8:05AM, as students come in they either stop and grab breakfast before going to class or they make a quick stop at their classroom and circle back through to get breakfast. I asked students how they like the new breakfast routine and their responses were very positive. Students who arrive after 8:30 are still able to grab something to eat as they head to first period. I want to thank Ms. Keenan and her staff for helping to implement this new practice at Napi Elementary, which feeds almost 450 students twice a day.

The first weeks of school, teachers were asked to focus their instructional time on becoming familiar with using the Gradual Release of Responsibility instructional framework with our district curriculums and MCCS to support their instructional decisions. New posters that support our instructional framework and non-negotiables regarding instruction were provided to all staff. Please make time to visit a classroom at Napi Elementary to see the summer work and plans of our SLT that are now in practice! Our first OLWEUS meeting was held on Friday. Fourth grade meet at 1:00-1:30 and 5th and 6th grade meet at 2:00-2:30. These times will likely remain the same for the school year. If you are interested in attending an OLWEUS classroom meeting, please let me know.

This year Napi returned to having two lunches instead of three, so a math intervention block and 60 minutes of writing daily were part of the daily schedule. It took creative planning to develop a plan that ensured grade levels still remained separated and received structured play time. The solution was to create "Structured Play" blocks during both lunch blocks that are supervised by specialists. Students are able to choose between attending open gym, Native Games, library activities, art activities, and music activities. Every two weeks' grade levels will rotate between the playground and structure play. Ms. Devine shared she is enjoying this new role as it provides her with an opportunity to get to know students better and in a more casual atmosphere.

The first week of school also included selecting a math consultant and scheduling dates for campus visits for September thru December. Napi and BMS chose Janelle Chisholm as our consultant. Ms. Chisholm noted that she has experience as an instructional coach and has experience supporting implementation of instructional practices. I felt that this work compliments the instructional work that has been our goal and focus for the last three years. Students completed their beginning of the year math assessment and ISIP testing. School data for both STAR and ISIP will be included in the October board report.

Finally, an update on Napi staffing. We currently are needing to fill a Special Education position and the Assistant Principal position. Mr. Swenson was originally hired as a Special Education teacher, but has agreed to step into a 5th grade teaching position for the year. The consensus of both principals

and Mr. Swenson was this decision was what was best for the 23 homeroom students who are currently under Mr. Swenson's care. We did not want these students and parents to be to in a situation where a change of teacher was being made, as it was impossible to predict how long it would have taken to find a quality candidate for this 5th grade classroom. Additionally, Mrs. Mattingly has continued to wear two hats, but we are hopeful that interviews will be completed in September and a candidate presented to the board for hire at the October board meeting.

Attendance: 4th---78.63%; 5th--84.80%; 6th--79.57%

Referrals: 2