

Morris Brandon Elementary GO Team Monthly Meeting

Minutes-October 13, 2016

Date: 10-13-16

Time: 5:00-7:34 PM

Location: Morris Brandon Main Campus Media Center

Members in attendance included:

Gordon Benedict (late)	Nza Branton	Tracey Hudson	Sarah Kirsch
Kate Laing	Caren Solomon (late)	Kara Stimpson	Kelly Trotter
Grace White			

Members not in attendance included:

Sue Friedrichs			

There is a quorum present.

The following items were on the agenda:

Sarah Kirsch called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Kate Laing moved and Sarah Kirsch seconded to approve the minutes of the September GO Team meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.

There were not any public comments.

The GO Team discussed pausing the creation of the strategic plan to look at the Charter School Implementation Process.

Kara Stimpson will draft strategic plan strategies for the next meeting.

The GO Team received the District IB Presentation by Ms. Kara Stimpson, Morris Brandon Principal, Nza Branton, Morris Brandon IB Coordinator and Mr. John Denine, District IB Coordinator. Key points of the presentation included:

- ❖ NA cluster is committed to the IB program for the next 5 years due to the fact that it is our cluster's Signature Program and the signature program concept is included in APS's 5-year charter with the state
- ❖ APS has committed to funding IB for the next 5 years
 - Funding for part of foreign language staff
 - IB coordinators
 - IB workshop trainings
- IBPYP focuses on the learner profiles with the hopes that students will use what they learn to take action
- IBPYP is transdisciplinary; inquiry based learning, requires a second language, and teaches the whole child.
- In order to build community within a classroom, IB discourages pullout classes.
- Specialists support the key concepts, attitudes, learner profiles, and curriculum.

- ❖ After Brandon's last IB Visit (happens every 5 years) Pullout classes, specifically the Gifted Program, Advance Math and the Early Intervention Program, were 1 of the 13 matters needing to be addressed for compliance of the IB program guidelines. Brandon needs to respond to IB by 12/1/16 with a plan of how it will address these issues to come into compliance with IB guidelines.
 - Caron Solomon asked if the parents had been given the opportunity to view the 13 matters to be addressed.
 - Sarah Kirsch reported that they were not shared with the local school council.
 - Kate Laing expressed a need for a parent presentation.
 - Kara Stimpson stated that Brandon needs a rock solid plan to submit to IB. The plan will be tied to the strategic plan through the strategies.
 - Caron Solomon asked if we then begin implementation or wait for approval.
 - Kara Stimpson said we assume the plan will be accepted.

- ❖ The GO team discussed the pros and cons for resource (or pull out classes) for gifted/EIP education (the model we use now) versus all students being served by the homeroom teacher (which is the model that would fit with IB).
- ❖ The GO team discussed the 4 state approved models for implementing the gifted program of which only 2 models (cluster and collaboration) would work for the IB program,

because the other 2 require pullout from the classroom and the students are taught by a teacher other than their homeroom teacher.

- The cluster model would require more certified gifted homeroom teachers and the collaboration model, which utilizes a gifted, certified lead teacher to suggest classroom strategies. Because these two models both deliver gifted education in the homeroom, they fit within the IB framework.
- Kelly Trotter asked if there was a better solution.
 - There is the possibility of coming up with other alternatives to present to the state using the school based solution methodology being developed by APS under its charter with the state.
- Sarah Kirsch stated that it would be very difficult for one teacher to provide customized education for all students all of the time.
- Kara Stimpson expressed strong feelings that whichever model or a combination of models is chosen for implementation; the new program should be rolled out in stages (a 5 year plan).
- Grace White and Tracey Hudson stated that not all teachers want to go through required training to earn another certification (ESOL or Gifted). There are not any incentives for teachers to take on the extra expectations and responsibilities of additional certifications. Further, Grace White and Tracey Hudson agreed that there were several seasoned teachers that would choose to leave Morris Brandon if they were required to seek an additional certification.
- Kelly Trotter, Sarah Kirsch, Caron Solomon, and Kate Laing all agreed that parents would not want Brandon's seasoned teachers to leave because of being required to seek additional certifications.
- Kara Stimpson assured the GO Team that not all teachers would need Gifted or ESOL certification in order to implement a program that would be IB approved.
- The GO team received two documents.
 - A summary of the challenge being faced by current and prospective IB schools in aligning with the requirements with GA DOE approved gifted education delivery models.
 - Frequently asked questions about Gifted Education in the IBPYP.

The following were added as GO Team ACTION ITEMS:

- Community meeting for parents to become informed and allow for a forum to express their ideas and concerns.
 - Two community meetings were agreed upon.
 - November 3rd at 6:00 p.m. and November 4th at 8:30 a.m. Meeting places are TBD.
 - Kara Stimpson will work with the website manager to add information for the parents to read prior to the community meetings.
 - Grace White and Tracey Hudson were concerned about informing the teachers sooner than later.
 - Teachers will be informed at work sessions on October 26th and 27th.
- Continue to think about the strategic plan.
 - Kara Stimpson will work on drafting strategies for the GO team's review in December.
 - Caron Solomon moved to have an additional GO Team meeting on November 7th at 7:30 a.m. at the Primary Center Gym. Nza Branton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Caron Solomon moved and Gordon Benedict seconded to end the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

❖ **Announcements (5 minutes)**

- **Recap of Expanded Cabinet Meeting (Stimpson)**

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