

Morris Brandon GO Team Meeting Minutes

Date: **10/5/17**

Time: **5:30 pm**

Location: **Morris Brandon Main Campus**

Call to order

A meeting of Morris Brandon's Go Team was held at Morris Brandon MC on 10/5/17.

Kate Laing made a motion to approve the 10/5/17 meeting agenda.

Sonya Walston seconded the motion.

In favor: all

Opposed: 0

Via Phone: n/a

The Oct. 5th agenda was approved.

Attendees

Attendees included:

Kara Stimpson

Caren Solomon Bharwani

Sonya Walston

Gordon Benedict

Sara Kirsch

Kate Laing

Kelly Trotter

Tracey Hudson

Members not in attendance

Members not in attendance included:

Nza Branton, Sue Friedrichs

Approval of minutes

Sara Kirsch__ made a motion to approve the 9/8/17 meeting minutes.

Kate Laing seconded the motion.

In favor:

Opposed: all

Via Phone: n/a

The 9/8/17 meeting minutes were approved.

I. Action Items:

a) Confirm date and format for World Language Community meeting

Ms. Stimpson opened up the discussion by reminding the group that the GO team had issued a survey last school year to see if the community would prefer French or Spanish as the world language offering at Brandon. French is the current offering. The survey results were inconclusive (about half preferred Spanish and half French). GO Team communicated that it would hold a community meeting in the future to continue to get feedback on the world language offering issue. This might be an item to form a GO Team committee.

The Team discussed various aspects of the community meeting and the best way to gather community feedback so that all parties have an opportunity to be heard. Discussion continued around what is the GO Team's role in making the final decision on this topic, and what criteria are used to make the decision. Topics discussed included:

- Format options: workshop, meeting, public comment at a GO Team meeting, language fair, survey
- Is switching to Spanish more expensive than continuing with French? KS: It is not.
- When does decision need to be made? KS: by Spring
- Does GO Team make the decision? No, principal does. GO Team's role is to process the feedback from the community and represent the community as a whole.
- If GO team initiates another survey, will DLI families be able to take this survey (due to the fact that their children, in DLI, are already learning Spanish and will not take the world language offered to the rest of the student body)? If they have another child, not in DLI, they will be able to take. Some on GO team feel survey should be opened up to everyone, regardless of DLI status, while others feel DLI families should not vote, since the world language offering will not affect them.

- What are other schools in our cluster doing? KS: No final decisions yet. Some are considering switching from French to Spanish.
- What are criteria by which final decision is made? Desire by GO Team to use some data points in addition to just the survey, as survey is opinion-based and results could be skewed, since not all community members are motivated to take it (i.e. possibility that the people who want to change have a higher motivation to take survey)

Resolution: GB suggested holding a GO Team meeting with an education component about this issue (to educate the community about the language we offer now and what the other options are) followed by public comment, at the meeting, from the community, to get their feedback. Ms. Stimpson will publicize the meeting and explain what it is about in her weekly email letter to the community. GO Team agreed this was a good solution and decided to use the 11/30/17 meeting to do this, as this meeting is in the evening (5:30 pm) and will be easier for community members to attend than the 11/5/17, 7:15 AM meeting.

b) Strategic Plan Review

KS presented strategic plan that was developed last year. Team looked at priorities, strategies and key performance measures and how they compared to current data and information. KS to send out slides with details. Key changes and discussion points:

- Add a Grade 1 and 2 STAR Math measure of 68% (K doesn't have a math only STAR measure).
- Add a K-2 STAR Reading measure of 78%.
- Brandon's GA Milestone ELA score for grades 3-5 dropped from 81% to 78% but were still 2nd highest in district (highest score was 80%).
- Brandon's GA Milestone SS score (grade 5 only) dropped from 74% to 72% but was highest score in district.
- GA Climate Survey: KS to send out copy of survey and how Brandon performed last year so team can better understand what it is asking and measuring. KS proposed we use information to make more specific measures. Also discussed developing K-2 survey.
- SK proposed that we do some PR on the success of the Eureka Math program. Team agreed, but we will time it with when CCRPI scores are shared (end of October/early Nov).
- KS shared that next week during the teacher work days teachers will do a deep dive into ELA program and work on improving consistency of ELA across blocks. They will work on things that they need to start, stop and maintain.
- IB work going well. NB created a one pager for all the units that provides a strong framework for teachers to use in their planning.

- SK asked how planning works vertically across the cluster - how do we align Brandon with Sutton and NA. The challenge is getting full engagement from other schools. KS shared that there is a new mentoring program kicking off October 23rd. 60 seniors from NA are being paired with students at Brandon. Seniors will come once a week from 7:30am-8:30am and spend time with the student before class and in class. Mentors are going to work with students and hold them to expectations.

Next Steps: Before the next meeting, team will look over the strategic plan as well as the support documents to be sent by KS. Team will be prepared to make any changes to strategies or measures at that meeting.

c) GO Team Committee Planning

Team decided at this time there is no need to establish sub-committees for family/community engagement or community outreach. The team is comfortable with waiting to see if the need arises and if it does, can address then.

II. Discussion Items

a) GO Team Training

Reminder that everyone on team needs to complete training asap. KS sent link out via email last week.

b) Updates from NAPPS Meeting

CS shared that there was a great turn out at meeting and schools did a great job of laying out vision of their schools. KS commented that it was a nice opportunity to see the cohesion of the cluster.

III. Public Comment

Sandra Lambert, French teacher at Brandon, spoke on behalf of the French department. Her key points regarding the World Language offering at Brandon:

- French teachers want to present a full picture of the French program - not only at Brandon but beyond at Sutton and NA. They'd like Kim Zemmali, French teacher at Sutton (previously at Brandon), to come and share her perspective as well as past Brandon students.

- Changing the language offering to Spanish would not be cost neutral. There would be considerable expense ramping up all the classroom materials, training etc.
- Per Kim Zemmali, Sutton has experienced a lot of difficulty hiring quality Spanish teachers.

Team discussed that French teachers should share a page overview of their arguments for the GO Team to reference for future discussions. Expectation is that French department and any other speakers they'd like to speak on their behalf will have an opportunity to speak during public comment portion of the 11/30 meeting when the issue will next be addressed.

IV. Announcements: n/a

V. Adjournment

SK motioned to adjourn the meeting.

TH seconded the motion.

- In favor: all
- Opposed: none
- The meeting was adjourned at (time).

Kelly Trotter

11/3/17

Secretary

Date of approval