



LEAN INTERMEDIATE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Preparing for future success...one student at a time

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OIMS BLT MINUTES Monday, October 3, 2016

Present: Jerry Trietley, Helen Button, Joel Whitcher, Maureen DiCerbo, Sue Kallenbach, Paul Gonzalez, Stella Gonzalez, Lacey Hill, Jennifer Mahar

Mr. Trietley welcomed everyone and asked for introductions.

- Springboard Committee: Mr. Trietley explained what function the Springboard Committee serves and quickly ran through the September meeting minutes. A brief discussion took place regarding why and when students are moved into and out of AIS.
- Wellness Committee: Mr. Trietley reviewed the Wellness Committee's function and went over some of the topics they will be dealing with, including a free breakfast and lunch program for all students, a building wellness initiative (no candy or soda to be sold in the building), etc. He discussed what the meal programs might look like, such as having full breakfast in the cafeteria, a cart in each hallway (kids would come to the cart and get a white or chocolate milk, a choice of cereal, and a piece of fruit or granola bar), or a combination of both plans. A goal of this plan would be to do away with the stigma of receiving free or reduced meals. The committee would also look at what type of snacks we are serving at dances and encourage offering healthy choices.
- Great Rewards Fundraiser Kickoff: The sale includes cookie dough, Cinnabons and magazine subscriptions. The kickoff assembly was held September 30th. Two students grabbed \$33 and \$27 in the money machine. We use Greater Olean gift certificates as rewards at the end of the year so the money goes back into the community.
- Safety Plan: Mr. Trietley reviewed the plan for lockdown drills. We do these in conjunction with OHS as we are technically one building. To date, we've held 9 fire drills, 1 shelter in place, 1 evacuation to the YMCA and 1 joint lockdown drill.
- IRLA: Maureen DiCerbo provided an update on the IRLA and STAR testing programs. She explained that IRLA helps kids find out what reading level they are at so they know what books they should be reading. It helps determine where a student is proficient so they can focus on that area and not re-teach all of the skills – just the ones they need. She also explained that students take STAR testing on the computer to measure how proficient they are in reading or math. It helps determine whether kids need AIS services. Maureen handed out charts illustrating where we are for proficiency now. Hopefully the proficiency percentages will be higher in May when we do the final benchmark testing. 7th Grade focus is going to be to have a reading culture to make sure the kids know how important reading is so that they do it independently.
- 6/7 Grade Level Meetings: Mr. Trietley met with every 6th and 7th grade student by teams in the LGI room to go over school policies and academic programs. A follow-up letter was mailed home to families shortly thereafter.

- Student Council: We are looking to have the Student Council members lead our courtyard improvement project. They are looking at options such as planting trees and/or hosta plants, installing bird houses, picnic tables, a swing, benches, a bird bath, etc.
- After School Programs: Nick Patrone is promoting after school programs. He is pursuing a five-year, \$250,000/year 21st Century grant. Nick is looking to hire a full-time coordinator. We could bring people in from the outside to run specialized programming. We do have after-school activities available now for students. Mr. Trietley plans to offer after-school programming opportunities to the staff at this week's faculty meeting.
- Increasing State Test Participation: The District's goal is to increase participation in the NYS Assessments this year. Last year, 36% of kids opted out of the state tests. Mr. Trietley was one of those parents. He explained that his daughter took the tests three years in a row. She always felt frustrated that she didn't feel she had enough time to finish and do the best she thought she could do. He opted her out last year and had his son take them as a baseline for his proficiency. This year, with all of the changes, we will encourage all families to allow their children to take the tests. These test scores are no longer so high stakes. There is a new federal law (ESSA) that says if you don't have 95 percentage of students participate, we could lose money. Let's get our kids to try and take the tests so they can see it's not the scariest thing in the world. Teachers can back it a little more since it's no longer tied to their evaluations. Regardless of how we feel, we want to get the word out that we respect the opinions and personal feelings of families, but if they are going to refuse, please do it two weeks ahead of time. If we can increase participation, we can say to the State, "Look, we're trying. We are increasing our participation. Work with us." Maureen DiCerbo asked if there was a form parents can use which outlines the test they are opting out of (math, ELA, science, etc.). There is a form online that some group has put out there for people to print and use.
- Mr. Trietley expressed his thanks to Mrs. Flynn for coming back to take our Family and Consumer Science classes. We are looking for a certified teacher, but there are not too many of those out there!
- Chronic Absenteeism Initiative: Although not yet a regulation, NYS says if a student misses 18 school days, excused or unexcused, they are considered "chronically absent". What the state is saying is that you can't teach kids if they are not there. (Teachers have said how can I teach kids who aren't here and yet my evaluation relies on them?) Andy Studley's attendance support program is great, but families have to volunteer to participate. Right now, we need to put out the positive message about why it's important to be in school.
- Thirst Project: High school student Emily Gayton started this program in Olean. They'll be hosting a dance for grades 6/7 on 10/31/16.
- NYS Draft Standards: From now until early November, people can go onto the State Education Department website and comment on the drafted standards. "Common Core" has taken on a negative connotation, so they will change the name to NYS Standards.
- LAP Update: Jennifer Mahar updated the group on OCSD's status as a focus district and OIMS' designation as a focus school. We are now listed as a Local Assistance Plan school, which means we wouldn't have as intensive a program, but we still need to keep working on improvement. The accountability has to do with how the District is achieving and tracking progress over time. Jen reviewed our LAP with the group. We will check in on data quarterly to see how we are doing.
- CIAC Review: Mr. Trietley reviewed minutes from the September CIAC meeting.
- Jen Mahar reviewed the concept of a standards-based report card.

Mr. Trietley adjourned the meeting, asking members to talk to friends and encourage others to become involved in BLT.