



Scranton Attendance Center

Board of Education Report

October 2014

To: Dr. Steve Pegram, Superintendent & the Board of Education
From: Mrs. Jennifer Hanni, Principal
Date: October 2 2014
Re: October BOE Report

The following is a summary of the progress toward our building and district goals at the Scranton Attendance Center during the month of September. Attached you will also find our parent newsletter that includes additional events and news from our building.

Use Data to Drive Instructional Decisions

Students in both grade levels have completed their first reading unit and are nearing the end of their second math unit. For math, we have used data broken down by standard to address both class and individual student weaknesses. We will do the same for reading as those scores become available. We will also readjust our small reading groups based on the scores from the unit 1 test, as we hope to see movement toward more grade level material.

We're in full swing with both our reading and math tier time. Students were placed based on their Benchmark scores in AIMSWeb, and we have already progress monitored students in reading to gauge their growth in their reading rate. Students are truly enjoying their math tier time, which is twice a week for a total of 70 minutes. We will monitor their progress monthly.

We're continuing to track various behaviors. We've had more negative referrals in the last couple of weeks. During the month of September, we had 27 negative referrals and 46 positive referrals. We also have data sheets for individual students to graph their progress and the success of our interventions with them.

Align and Map Course Curriculums

Teachers are using standards language in their objectives they update daily on their board. Many teachers like the "Today I am...So I Can...I'll know when I have it when..." strategy, and they go over these objectives with students at the beginning of each lesson. We're finding that the language in our main resources and the language used in CCRS are very similar, which is nice. We want students to have the knowledge of the vocabulary used in the CCRS so they are best prepared for the assessments.

On September 15, Dr. Coester shared value information with our grade level teams concerning the math standards, progression documents and specifics on how to address the standards. Teachers came away with practical information to implement into their own classrooms, including math Olympics, which will take place during math tier.

On September 23, grade level teams then got to work on BYOC, checking over their math curriculum and continuing to work on their ELA. Both 3rd and 4th grade math curriculums are ready for the peer review process. They have also ran reports to be sure they are not just covering, but adequately addressing each standard, including filling in some holes left in our main resource. Fourth grade is nearly complete with their ELA course as well; third grade is finished with 3 of the 7 units.

Effectively use our Evaluation Tool

All teachers have completed their self assessment and I've met with all but three teachers regarding their goals. I will meet with the remaining staff members this week.

I have created, and then adjusted, goal groups that group teachers with similar goals together so they can support, motivate, and encourage each other to stay focused and provide suggestions as they move forward together. We have several with goals related to including technology, and another group focused on providing differentiation and instruction for individual students' needs. We'll get back together in these groups during our staff meeting and discuss progress and ideas.

I will be disaggregated the results from the self assessments to find our overall weaknesses, and then find ways to provide professional development opportunities to address those weaknesses.

Communicate Effectively with all Stakeholders

As referenced in the behavior data paragraph, we are sending home many positive office referrals. I'm also posting albums to Facebook, almost weekly, to show the different activities taking place in our building. These postings have included Kudos to staff members who went above and beyond the prior week.

Third graders have sent home information regarding small reading groups and the 4-point scale we are using to grade math. They had parents sign that they had received the information, and hope that helps provide clarity and meaning to all the scores and information coming home. Fourth grade teachers send home math grades, and an explanation at the end of every unit and plan to send home a note explaining the small groups in reading. Both grade levels are putting together an information sheet regarding both our reading and math tiers to explain the differences and how we will monitor student progress throughout the semester. We plan to send all of this information, as well as our reading data charts, home before conferences so parents have a chance to review and bring in questions. Teachers are also working with students discussing their scores and progress and making plans to improve their scores.

Develop as Professionals

Grade level teams collaborate twice each week for approximately 30 minutes. We've spent much of that time discussing data from the various assessments, and adjusting lesson plans and activities to better meet the needs of students. These meetings also ensure consistency between teachers in the same grade level, and help produce many of the communications sent home. We have plans to send questions to grade levels above and below to be sure some vertical alignment is also happening.

I encouraged teachers to participate in Spirit Week during Homecoming to show their Charger pride. I have addressed a few issues with professionalism with individual staff members, and will continue to do so.

Based on their professional goals, teachers have plans to observe other classrooms and attend necessary trainings to develop as professionals. Some observations will take place in house, while one plans to visit a "flipped classroom" in the Lawrence school district. A few expressed interest in a technology conference and are looking at lesson plans to see if the date works.