Burgess-Peterson Academy GO Team Meeting

Date: September 8, 2016

Time: 5:30 P.M.

Location: BPA Media Center

I. Call to order

II. Roll call; Determine quorum status; Approve previous meeting minutes

# Attendees

Attendees included:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Lewis Cartee | Geraldine Thomas | Jeanne Fore | Sue Ellen Wortzel |
| David White | Melanie Searcy | Tracy King-Holmes | Marc Takacs |
| Aretta Baumgartner |  |  |  |

# Members not in attendance

Members not in attendance included:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

Is there are quorum present? Circle or highlight Yes or No

Changes Made to Minutes Circle or highlight Yes or No

Minutes approved? Circle or highlight Yes or No

Jeanne Fore motioned to approve the minutes. Sue Ellen Wortzel seconded. The vote was unanimous (6-0) to approve the minutes from the August 11, 2016 meeting. \*Six members were present at the time of this motion and vote.

# III. Discussion Items

a. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Lindsey Wyczalkowski

Lindsey was unable to attend due to sickness. She will attend the next meeting scheduled for October.

b. Homework

There was productive conversation centered around homework. We discussed the following:

* how families could/would become more engaged through homework
* amount of homework
* do students really know that they have homework
* reflection of homework
* implementing a homework policy that is effectively communicated to parents
* how IB will effect homework
* homework being grade specific
* clear expectations of homework and what is coming home to the parents
* on some IB School’s websites they had homework embedded in the parent handbook, some schools had rationales for homework and they linked to it a positive connection between home and school
* Principal White shared BPA’s Homework Policy with the team; He idea of homework was the following: is to engage parents, have a link between home and school, why we think it matters, philosophy, purpose/intent that is meaningful

# IV. Action Items

a. Form a Homework Committee (Home Learning Committee)

* It was proposed to have a committee or homework group comprised of one teacher per grade level, parental input as well as the administrative team.
* We could conduct parent surveys
* Where did the directive of homework come from
* Prepare a fresh document for parents to show how homework strategically affects student achievement.
* From this homework committee, we hope to gain better understanding, have better communication and is a forward thinking group using protocols to really dive deep into the work.
* Outcomes would be to talk about content weights, statements from teachers (coversheets); newsletters, lessen variability.
* The Homework Committee (Home Learning Committee) would survey parents, students and teachers by the end of September, form Focus groups by mid-October in hopes to publish a new Home Learning Policy by January.
* There was a motion by Sue Ellen Wortzel and seconded by Jeanne Fore to set up a Home Learning Committee and Study Groups. The vote was unanimous (8-0) in favor of forming this committee and start study groups.

# V. Information Items

a. Public Comment (If Applicable)

We had one public comment by email. See below:

To BPA's GoTeam,  
>   
> I wanted to address the issue of homework. It is something that causes screaming and crying in our home more than once a week. Reading every night is useful,but the work..particularly the worksheets are excessive.  
>   
> Many peer-reviewed studies have found that homework in elementary school--particularly in the early grades-- may be detrimental to student achievement. I believe this is particularly true for my kids. If I could go back in time and refuse pre-k homework for both kids, I would. I think it hurt the love of learning that both of them entered school with. It has been particularly hard on Elise. She begs me to pull her out and homeschool her and claims illness often. Our at home time would be better spent doing creative or active things together as a family.  
>   
> Hand in hand with the homework policies, I wish BPA would consider recess/outdoor time policies. Schools in Texas have had great results doubling (or more) their recess time. It seems that unstructured play helps the brain which in turn raises achievement while reducing absences and behavioral issues. I will be in class tonight so can not be there in person. Thank you for allowing me to send remarks. I am happy to pull some of the studies if needed.

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Her concern was addressed by email. See below.

Thank you very much for taking the time to share your thoughts as it relates to homework at Burgess-Peterson. As a team we had a robust conversation around this topic, and we believe that a more in-depth study of this issue is very much warranted. As part of this process we will first create surveys independently directed at parents, teachers and students to help us better appreciate how our school community views homework and the role it should play in the learning environment. These surveys will then be included as part of a study group concept focusing separately on grades K-2 and 3-5. These groups will be 6-8 members comprised of parents and teachers with the desire to understand and define what our philosophy and goals are as they relate to homework, creating a consistently applied and communicated approach while, all the time, staying focused on our school priorities laid out in our strategic plan and, lastly, creating a homework policy that affectively supports these priorities.   
  
Lewis Cartee  
Chair, Burgess-Peterson Academy GO Team

# VI. New Business

We wanted to make amendments to the way we address public comments. Instead of ending signup time at 5:30, we discussed having it open until 6 p.m. the day of the meeting.

Jeanne motioned to amend the public comment sign in time to 6 p.m. the day of the meeting, Geri Thomas seconded. The vote was unanimous (8-0) to change the sign up time.

# VII. Announcements

Please like the new Facebook Page (Friends of BPA) There were issues with the other and it had to be shut down.

# VIII. Adjournment

Geri Thomas motioned to adjourn, Sue Ellen seconded. The vote was unanimous to adjourn (8-0). We adjourned at 6:53 p.m.