

## CDIP Focus Team Minutes

January 16, 2015

Present: Ms. LaToya Dent (parent rep, grade K), B. Hall, Coach T. Edmondson, Dr. J. Thompson, M. Cantrell, A. Wilson, K. Moss, D. Barron, J. Franzen, R. Burden (parent rep, grade 1), J. Mao, Dr. W. Johnson, D. Hackney.

### Agenda items and discussion:

Review of last month's meeting minutes (November meeting) by Ms. Moss; motion to accept minutes as written was seconded and minutes were accepted. During discussion, Ms. Moss shared that there was an additional visit from Dr. Barfield, and Ms. Nix, both representing World Languages at the state Department of Education. They visited Ms. Wang's class (Ms. Hsu's classroom), and the visit went well. During the post visit debrief, there was discussion about consistency of vocabulary across grade levels, and Ms. Wang shared the discussions occurring in the CDIP Vertical Team meetings. In addition, Dr. Barfield and Ms. Nix suggested the development of a non-negotiable instructional checklist to assist in streamlining the program.

Welcome to new team members: Ms. LaToya Dent, who is our new Kindergarten parent representative, Ms. Jennifer Franzen, representing 5<sup>th</sup> grade. All other team members introduced themselves.

Debrief from Parent Night: The meeting was well attended; Dr. Aaron Schmuhl was a keynote speaker, and he brought Heather Mackenzie, Coordinator for Social Studies and World Languages. Dr. Schmuhl surprised the group with a \$500 donation for the program. Parents in attendance completed an online satisfaction survey about the program; results will be shared at the next meeting in February. Next parent meeting is April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm, and will have American food served. Parents will complete a post survey at that time. Parents indicated strong support for fundraising for the program. Dr. Johnson has decided on the Ziggedy program for fundraising; funds are raised using an online shopping card and the school gets 2.5% of sales.

Dr. Johnson reminded committee members that if they have ideas or concerns that they are free to ask to have items added to the agenda by contacting either herself or Ms. Moss.

TAG/SpED Students: 3 more students have qualified for TAG, and the teachers continue to look at how best to serve them individually in CDIP.

CDIP current enrollment: 38 First Grade; 44 Kindergarten; the first grade program has lost 2 due to relocation, but 2 of the newly identified TAG students have expressed interest in joining the program. There is also a potential addition to the program in either K or 1<sup>st</sup>. Coach Ed mentioned a new transfer student who may be appropriate, and Dr. Thompson mentioned that she may have an additional student who is appropriate as well.

The committee then discussed how to stabilize and maintain enrollment with Coach Ed suggesting that an after school program be offered that targets gifted and able learners to build their basic skills in

Mandarin, and then developing an “entrance exam” to see if these students have the necessary skill level to enter the program. This would possibly allow students older than mid-first grade to enter the program. Ms. Dent queried as to whether there are any current concerns about teachers being able to catch new students up to their peers when they enter the program later. Dr. Johnson explained that whenever a new student is considered for entry to the program, a committee meets to discuss whether that particular child has an appropriate skill set to enable them to catch up.

Dr. Johnson shared that the county has agreed to protect the program even if there is a drop in enrollment, and the committee has already discussed some models to keep the program viable even if the numbers drop to just one class of students. The current policy is that no new students are added to the program after mid-first grade unless they are transferring in from another CDIP program.

Chinese New Year: Feb 13<sup>th</sup> during the day; committee to meet after school today to start planning. There is an annual T-shirt contest sponsored by Gezzo’s, and Dr. Johnson would like to see entrants from DES. Ms. Wilson is working on the T-shirt design for this event; Ms. Paula Watkins is arranging the set-up of inflatables and will be ordering the shirts.

National Chinese Language Conference Visit: DES has been chosen by the group for a tour of the program on April 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. Final date for the visit not confirmed, but the anticipated date is the 16<sup>th</sup>. There was a suggestion that the Parent Meeting for April be moved to this date as part of the tour.

Miscellaneous:

Ms. Hsu is returning next week, and will have one day of collaboration and re-orientation with Ms. Wang.

Human Resources has given approval for the hiring of a CPIP for the rest of this year and next. This paraprofessional position will assist in the maintenance of paperwork for the program, assist teachers as needed, implement the new instructional checklist, and help facilitate parent questions and concerns.

Dr. Johnson has hired Ms. Placide (currently subbing in Ms. Wang’s room) for the rest of this year.

The committee then proposed and discussed the new instructional checklist. Suggestions were as follows:

Teacher-student respect is evident

No English in the Mandarin classroom-ever

Allow for appropriate think-response time

Using resources appropriately/consistently

Uses differentiated instruction

Students are engaged

Age-appropriate time in center work

Participation in grade level collaboration and planning

Participation in partner teacher planning

Effective parent communication

Positive and nurturing environment/demeanor (terminology open for discussion)

Uniformity/continuity of vocabulary across grade levels

Dr. Johnson would like to see both grade levels go on a field trip to experience some of the cultural aspects of China. Suggestions were as follows:

Chinatown (Buford) or Riverdale; Ms. Mao to work on this with a target date of May.

There was also a suggestion that a monthly calendar of events be sent out to alert parents to community opportunities such as the one coming up Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> in Kennesaw.

Fundraisers: Dr. Johnson explained Ziggedy; the committee also discussed a parent suggestion of making a magnet or decal to promote the program.

Social Media: Ms. Burden and Dr. Thompson will work on developing a Facebook page for the program.

The team then reviewed the following assignments, thanked Dr. Johnson for lunch, and adjourned:

Assignments:

Dr. Thompson: Facebook, after school club

Coach Ed: after school club

Ms. Chen/Wang/Cantrell/Mao: Field trip

Parent Reps (Ms. Burden, gr. 1; Ms. Dent, gr K): Magnet/decal; Ms. Burden: Facebook page

Ms. Franzen/Ms. Hackney: Calendar

Ms. Moss: Vertical Team meetings

Ms. Hall/Dr. Johnson: instructional checklist

Ms. Wilson: Chinese New Year T-shirt design

Ms. Cantrell: field trip and Chinese New Year Festival

Ms. Barron: Chinese New Year Festival, CDIP meeting minutes.