

Devinny Elementary Student Accountability Committee (SAC)

Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2019

Next meeting: November 14, 2019, 5:45 – 6:30, Devinny Library

1. Opening Remarks

Cathleen welcomed attendees and provided general overview of meeting agenda.

2. Devinny's Unified Improvement Plan (UIP)

During September SAC meeting achievement and growth results from last year's CMAS testing were shared. Results showed that Devinny achieves at a higher level than State and District in all areas. However, data shows decline in math growth at Devinny. This year's UIP will continue to focus on Literacy, but will also refocus on improving Math growth.

The review of data, indicates that the root cause for decline in growth for math deals with "number sense". Number sense looks at how students see numbers and are able to dissect/interpret numbers. If the foundation with number sense is not strong, students may struggle as concepts become more complex.

The UIP goal is to increase proficiency in number sense and the expected result is that growth data will improve.

In addition, this year's UIP will continue to focus on Literacy; with emphasis on close reading for comprehension and the continued development of common assessments. The common assessments will provide data to drive instruction pertaining to Literacy. Grade level teams review data from common assessment and identify students needing additional support, as well as students performing well who need further challenges/extended learning.

3. Healthy Schools

Devinny is forming a formal Health, Wellness, and Safety Committee that ties into Devinny's desire to earn designation of "Healthy School". Kim Lunsford will serve as liaison for new committee.

The Health, Wellness, and Safety Committee has 10 Focus Areas:

- Physical Education and Physical Education
- Nutrition Environments & Services
- Staff Wellness
- Social Emotional and School Culture
- Physical Education

- Family Engagement
- Community Involvement
- Counseling
- Psychological & Social Support
- Health Education

The goals for this year are:

- Active Classroom Design- Upgrade our intervention/small-group meeting rooms with alternative seating and furniture.
- Increase physical activity at recess- Purchase equipment and facilitation/training and for implement our Playground Parents initiative.

Currently Jeffco District mandate is that students participate in 30 minutes of physical activity per day. The 30 minutes are not required to be taken at one time, Devinny has 20-minute recess and classes determine how to integrate 10 additional minutes into school day. Student will participate in recess/additional activities as often as possible. Devinny Administration looks at alternative ways to discipline versus taking recess away (i.e.: sweeping rocks at recess that cause injury, cleaning where needed).

Lastly, there is grant funding available if you become a "Rise School". In order to receive "Rise School" designation, the school must meet 30-minute activity requirement. If Devinny decides to become a "Rise School", there is \$1000 available to support health and wellness programs.

PTA funds from 2018-2019 allowed school to purchase other activities for recess (example: kick ball, jump ropes, big connect four game, etc.) This year, parents are encouraged to volunteer to help facilitate play during recess. Goal is to teach kids how to play and engage during recess.

4. Social Emotional Learning

Devinny was allocated funding to support additional half time Social Emotional Learning Specialist employee for 2019-2020 school year. These funds were leveraged to fully fund one full time Social Emotional Learning Specialist, Mr. Kurtz. Additional social/emotional support for Devinny is provided by Ms. Perea two days per week.

Mr. Kurtz is in each classroom throughout each week. During his time in class he will share new tools and additional resources for Second Step; which is used throughout school.

Currently Devinny demonstrates strong tier 3 support for students who are really struggling. This school year, Devinny is working to develop a stronger structure to support tier 2 students (children with mild needs).

PBIS Committee is working with Mr. Kurtz to structure Interventions such as “check in / check out” as a way to connect with kids first thing in morning to ask “How are you feeling” and “What is the goal for the day?” and then meeting with student at the end of day to ask “How did it go?”. The goal is to build support for kids to help them be ready to learn throughout the day.

Further information regarding Social/Emotional Learning to be shared in November, with Mr. Kurtz and Ms. Perea available to present in more detail.

Questions:

(Dee Dee Craig) How are the tools/skills within Second Step reinforced with parents to further support at home?

With Second Step, there are family letters that are shared with parents that provide information about what support is being provided and how that support can continue outside school. Letters give insight into skills that are being learned (empathy, recognition of emotions, self-awareness, vocabulary to express self, calming down, problem solving).

(Brandi Koskie) Why did Devinny decide to use additional funding from District to fund one full time resource versus adding a second part time resource?

Devinny has historically covered the additional funding to maintain a full time social/emotional resource. This year Devinny was granted an exception to allocate funding as a full-time employee. Having a full-time resource in the building allows students to build a relationship with one person. Mr. Kurtz brings significant skills to Devinny and at this time it makes sense to maintain him full time and he is effective with students. Budget review is beginning and will look at this model and continue to allocate funds in a way that best support the school and all students.

5. Other Updates

Area Academy Programs-

At elementary level, the goal is to align teaching approach to Green Mountain High School’s (GMHS) Academy Program. Instructional planning is looking at how to incorporate appropriate learning /support of teachers to help kids understand how what they are learning applies to Academy Program at GMHS.

Innovation Funding-

Piggin’ Out BBQ is holding an event on October 20, 2019 that will feature a band, Cindy and the Protractors. The band is composed of local educators and the event will donate, 10% of profits to Green Mountain Schools Innovation Fund. Teachers are able to apply for funds to support innovation in classroom (i.e.: makers space, 3D printers, etc.) beginning in November.