

## **Leadership Coffee**

September 23, 2011

Leadership Team Present: Kerry Walker, Tammy Veselsky, Shan e Schaffer, William Lance, Toni Kanzler, Dave Gatman, Julie Harris, Amy Berens

Parent Present: Rae Schaffer, Nancy Lee, Nancy Brownlee, Nancy Gruesser, Elizabeth Vannoy, Tracy Dull, Penny Fowler, Debbie Byely, Danielle Tooley, Lorie Broyles, Claire Shelton, Monica Johnson, Todd Venstra, Melita Davis, Claudia Thomazi

Topics Covered:

The meeting was opened in prayer and introductions of the leadership team members.

Tammy Veselsky - Safety - EC has new Parents Day Out program led by Leslie Guzulaitis. We have created a new TPCA safety handbook, which is more consolidated and user friendly for staff, subs, etc.

Julie Harris - New AP and Dual credit classes this year. Lots of new things going on with technology. New internship class where they take SAT, ACT, create resumes, etc and will pursue an internship during J-term. PSAT coming up. ECAs coming up. Core Standards coming up.

AP - Advanced Placement - through college board - we have Eng/Lit/compos and World History.

Rigorous and tough - colleges are looking for this.

Core 40 is by the Department of Education. Students have to have certain ratio of credits, have to maintain 3.0, take foreign language, and certain requirements to receive a Core 40 Diploma.

Dual Credit - have 3 credit hour Bible course through Indiana Wesleyan that helps students investigate what God is calling them to do with their lives/careers/futures. This leads into the second semester of Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace.

Common Core Standards - more strategic, critical thinking skills. ISTEP will be replaced with a test over common core standards

Amy Berens Athletics - new student section of the bleachers. Middle school tennis new this year. Working on how to add more high school sports. Thinking through facility needs for sports: track, football field. Looking at adding golf.

Toni Kanzler - we are working on reformatting website. The updated website will be more user friendly and provides the ability to have multiple administrators. (i.e. Amy can update her own athletic pages.) Encounter Dates are on website - plan to come - bring friends. Different from open house as it is not facility driven. Encounter events allow parents to hear directly from the teachers about the programs/classes. Parents get to know the teachers and what they are doing, why they are doing it, etc. Invite other parents! God is on the move! Enrollment for new families is up 38%. Already giving tours for next year.

Dave Gatman - God provided tons of lockers, desks and chairs from Ohio. They are even purple and gold! Cost \$25. Refinished gym floor. Grass and sprinklers on playground. HS building is getting painted.

William Lance - Added modular with 6 classrooms. New staff - Mr. Roell doing great job. Great heart and attitude. Divided 6th grade into 3 groups. Mrs. Lee has come in to help teach the 3rd class. Mrs.

Brattain is leaving, so we are working through replacing her. Due to growth, Mr. Lance has been able to create departments in the secondary level. These meet and work together for planning, encouragement, cohesiveness, and development.

Shane Schaffer - thank you to all the parents who came out to lay sod on the playground. The sod has given the students a greater area to play and more options. Projectors - new to Kindergarten through grade 5. They are used every day. Professional Development - sent 10 staff to Chicago this summer for more training in classroom differentiation. Gained more strategies for meeting individual student needs.

Parent questions:

Are you still evaluating the new math materials in elementary?

Math - the new Envision program is still being reviewed. It is ongoing. Teachers are supplementing where necessary. Parent feedback is welcomed as the program is still being evaluated. Textbooks do not drive the teaching - standards drive the instruction.

Is TPCA moving toward a year-round school year?

No, not yet. Would not do this just because the public schools are switching. We will look at research to determine the effectiveness, but at this time TPCA does not have any plans to adjust our academic calendar.

Will there be more classrooms opened in the grade levels with higher numbers?

There are no more classrooms available in the building. The assistants that are chosen are qualified to help with instruction and student guidance.

How do we address differences between grade levels?

Teachers meet between the grade levels and work together to make better transitions - between grade levels and subject areas. Teachers are working together to identify these, as well as the needs of students who may be new to TPCA.

Is there a plan to put another administrator in considering growth?

Middle School is different than HS. As we grow we will need someone in this roll. We aren't at that point yet, but have added some clerical assistance for both principals.

Communications

The goal is to look more strategically and long-range. Specifically, how can we promote or provide the information in advance? What steps need to be put in place, and what plans need to be made to make sure we are ahead of the ball? The leadership team is looking more broadly at this year and beyond and looking at way in which we can better communicate.

Smoking? Are we a non-smoking campus?

Need to address this in the eBulletin. Shane and Tammy will look into this.

Is there any way to have a school zone speed limit on Indianapolis Rd?

We've looked into signs and are currently trying to work with the Whitestown city government.

Vouchers - we have 15 students this year. If you have not been in touch with legislatures, please send them notes of encouragement about this.

SGO - the scholarship option for K-1 students. Donors may donate specifically to TPCA (scholarship fund) through Sagamore. There is a state tax credit for the donor. Win/win for donor and school. If you give \$1000 through this, the state will give you \$500 back on your tax return. Mr. Walker will be setting up individual meetings between the Sagamore rep and potential donor to learn more about this incredible opportunity.