

SAC Meeting Notes: Thursday March 10th 3:30-5:00pm

1. UIP presented by Amy Novotny. In addition to explaining how the school assesses the students, we talked about the regression rate that occurs in reading and math after summer. Amy stated that there is a 20% regression for reading and 17% regression for math. The UIP goal is to increase these scores in general by putting in place a tutoring program that's accessible by VP for kids who need to leave campus after school by Fall 2016. There was also discussion of summer camps to support reading, writing and math provided by RMDS.

We were given a written report on root causes, verification of root causes and an action plan.

Rachel Kapustka: a summer program is suggested as part of the action plan. What does this look like?

Can I suggest an asl immersion program? Can we set up Americorp through RMDS for outreach to rural areas with these participants also being a part of the school team for events? 1 day workshops that address: ASL acquisition, Deaf Culture, Deaf Panel, games, Positive discipline, visual language research, etc. I think that many families live far enough away that coming multiple times through out the year for separate events becomes difficult especially if they have more than 1 child. Having a childrens program that allows access for hearing and Deaf children with Deaf providers and English/Spanish speaking providers together at the same time as parents are in a workshop could be helpful and encourage participation.

Maybe we have reading activity kits? They can be assigned based on level and checked out like a library book. Maybe there is a grant that could help provide materials?

2. 5 Year Strategic Plan Ideas: see handout.

Rachel: I would like to encourage the school to consider soliciting feedback from the student body to see what they feel they are lacking or would be helpful as students of this school and children of mostly hearing parents. How could they be more supported? How could there home life and families be more supported?

High Rigor/Bilingual Education: We discussed the need to develop an ASL Curriculum for middle and high school. There is currently a curriculum for K-5th grade.

Rachel: I think exposing the kids as a whole to more Deaf professionals in the country through assemblies, maybe quarterly, to explain, like a career day, what they need to be successful in their career might ignite purpose driven passion for language acquisition?

Beyond the Classroom: What do the summer programs look like? Exchange students within our country from other Deaf schools?

21st Century Tech/Global Learning: SAC: starting a pen pal program to initiate learning about people from other cultures. There is a trend to study/understand more about social justice. The idea of student run business such as a screen printing business would allow the students to learn about creativity, language, graphic design, marketing, sales and distribution.

Culture of shared Responsibilities:

Rachel: Having an award system based on participation. For ex. If the most parents of the ECE participate then allocated money is rewarded to that dept that provides materials/programs/events for those kids?

Asking for sponsorships from the parents who own their own business or asking them to ask their employers?

Effective Partnership/Commitment to Community:

Rachel: I suggest a health and wellness committee that involves local businesses as well as a potential large donor such as Whole Foods or Sprouts. I would also like to volunteer our chiropractic business, when we have it set up here, to be a community partner to RMDS that hosts an internship in a health care office.

Enrollment:

Rachel: Inviting and hosting all CHIP and other programs like San Juan Kids, IRP, SRP providers to tour the school, give them information, direct contact about what's available at RMDS.

Host Family Camps/a professional development program like CASA at NMSD/ASL immersion camps/young adult vision and dream day-teaching kids how to set goals and create vision boards, effective journaling, etc.

Finance/Facilities:

Rachel: A physical therapy room that could be used for rehab but also for ECE for safe motor skill education. I would like to see an audiologist on staff that could manage and check the functioning of hearing aids and cochlear implants for the kids who use those tools.

3. Student/Parent Handbook Review:

The school lawyer confirmed that RMDS is within its legal rights to have its own policy to prohibit soda and candy.

Rachel: As a parent, I appreciate this prohibition as a healthy boundary. There is still a lot of room for parents to pack treats and unhealthy food if they so choose. It's important to me that my child be around other healthy kids where learning is priority. I know that eating food with added sugar can affect behavior and our ability to learn. I think it's a reasonable policy. I think that other events that occur outside school hours can be exception to this policy. For birthdays, snacks and lunches it could be helpful to provide a suggested list of food choices that are low in sugar and are allergy free. I think the school could provide a document that lists these foods as part of the school handbook. I also suggest we provide nutrition and wellness tips in the schools monthly newsletter-I am happy to volunteer this information!