

BAC Meeting  
10/25/18

- Welcome and attendance
- PTO update from James. The fundraiser is coming along well, we are up to about \$23,000 of the \$30,000 goal. Newton Knight Out contributes a lot to this! It was mentioned that the Halloween Party and Run With the Knights will not become fundraisers. James also reiterated that funds are always used for what's best for all students.
- DAC update from Elizabeth
  - Presentation by LPS Foundation
    - Littleton Stride, Avalanche Night, Poetry Slam
  - Superintendent Report emphasized the need for more mental health supports in LPS
    - 10/29 mental health presentation at South Fellowship Church
    - Sources of Strength
    - Therapy Dogs
    - Safe2Tell
    - Bond issues (mental health, staffing, and equity are the focus)
  - Graduation Requirements
    - Requirements will be revamped again
    - ICAP
    - The Next Program - brings students back to help them get a GED through LPS
- UIP (Unified Improvement Plan)
  - GOAL: 100% of students will earn an overall score of 50% or better on the writing section of the CMAS.
  - The plan will be focused on writing.
  - It was mentioned that for every opt-out we receive a "0" for that student, so opting out can negatively impact a school's performance rating.
  - Newton has very high CMAS scores compared to those statewide, but there were many "0" scores in the writing portion here at NMS for an unknown reason, which impacted our overall writing score. The amount of "0" scores is being looked in to.
  - We will continue to work on writing across all disciplines.

- There are specific interventions for kids who are struggling with writing in order to work on skills.
- Equity Goal
  - This is being developed by Brian Wyckhuyse, and will be presented soon.
  - Making sure every student has access to what he or she needs in every building is the equity priority in the district.
  - Our school is the only middle school that has a designated time for interventions 4 days per week.
  - Tom Many (PLC consultant) did an audit here at NMS last year. He made some suggestions regarding moving classrooms to support PLC groupings and making sure every teacher had a group, which were followed. He also told James that NMS is doing well.
  - Clay Abila is very impressed with how NMS is doing overall in regards to the PLC model which will support being successful in our equity work.
  - NMS staff are having equity training in November and will also hear from Dr. Pedro Noguero regarding equity at our January in-service.
- Items from the group
  - James' vision for the new Newton campus is to have a new name, and to house a new community mental health center. The new campus would also have a district professional development space, and continue to house the Voyager and Nova programs.
  - James addressed why NMS does not do Sources of Strength. This is because we do PBIS and No Place for Hate, and those programs are already very effective here and do the work of a program like Sources of Strength, so the choice was made to not add another full program. However, we have implemented Signs of Suicide training for all staff and 8th graders, and this has already been successful.
  - James, Amy, and some other staff walked the neighborhood last weekend for about 4.5 hours regarding the bond measures. The responses were very positive, and the community appears to be very supportive of the upcoming initiatives.