

COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations below were gathered from parents during the Community Strategic Planning Meeting held in February 2011. The “Next Steps” information was added by the school in response to each parent suggestion.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT ITEMS:

ACHIEVEMENT GAP

Suggestion	Next Steps
Extend the School day/year Extend the school day/year – required & funded	The Safety Net Redesign Committee is working on this suggestion as part of their program redesign work. There is extensive research indicating that extended school day and year will have a significant impact on student achievement for struggling students.
Before/after programs funded by private sources	See above
Help through Outreach e.g. English as a second language and low income=could be approached by talking with them or parent series could be beneficial	The Parent Education Committee is working on this suggestion.
Bilingual Math instruction/Immersion for intended purpose of improving testing	This idea is a concept we are very interested in. The district has begun to research the concept of bilingual/immersion education but no specific plans are in place for adding bilingual or immersion programs in the next 3 years.

COMMITTEE FOR ADVANCED STUDENTS

Suggestion	Next Steps
Parental involvement on this committee is vital. Additionally we have many parents at this school who could come and share knowledge that could help the classes. Do we ever have “bring our parent to school day?” along the lines of presentations on what my parents do?	This is something we agreed with. The committee will begin preliminary work and will develop a plan to include parents. Parents will be notified of the opportunity to participate on this community through Ottermail when the plan is finalized.

I want to make sure that the kids that are passing the MSP are continued to be challenged at their level. We need to do this as much as we help the kids that are challenged on these tests.	We agree completely with this concern. This is precisely the type of thing the committee will be working on.
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SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT/METRICS

Suggestion	Next Steps
We need to take the time to focus and build the metrics we're measuring ourselves against. We don't expect to be out of performance until NCLB is repealed. So what are we truly measuring? This needs to be well defined, straightforward & more frequently published.	The state recently released a new tool we can use to measure our improvement that considers several data points. It is called the Achievement Index and can be found at the link below. We are also interested in developing another tool as suggested to further analyze our performance. We encourage further recommendations in this regard. http://www.sbe.wa.gov/

MATH/MSP

Suggestion	Next Steps
Continue to provide academic instruction at an appropriate ability level not necessarily grade level = stay flexible based on needs. For example: 6th graders learning at 5th grade Envision	We intend on continuing this practice.
Continue a before school program for a boost for below standard performers.	We intend on continuing this practice. We are also researching ways to offer an after school program to address below standard performers that are not currently being served in the before school program.
Our teachers ROCK and they really go above and beyond!	We agree!
Educate parents and emphasis on the importance of homework and returning to class	Our Common Agreements Committee will be developing an agreed upon practice by grade level regarding homework. Once that practice has been determined, we will communicate our expectations to parents.

Each math topic to be completed efficiently prior to the MSP date so students will have enough time to review and pass with “Flying Otter Colors”	Many teachers currently do MSP preparation in their classes. We will be sure that all classes do so as appropriate. We also plan to offer a before school MSP Math preparation program for students that are below standard prior to the exam.
Check on the clarity of questions. The math questions could be interpreted multiple ways	Teachers will be reviewing available “Release Items” and teaching students how to answer the questions prior to the exam.

TEACHER MENTORING

Suggestion	Next Steps
I love the learning walks and PD cycle BUT will you also continue 1:1 Teacher to Teacher mentoring? Please do	1:1 Teacher mentoring will continue to be available for new teachers through the district Consulting Teacher program.

SUPPORTING STRUGGLING STUDENTS/USING VOLUNTEERS

Suggestion	Next Steps
We should encourage more parent volunteers to help individual (group) kids to catch up with their academic performance. Teacher should be able to identify areas kids need help and discuss with class parents	This is an excellent suggestion. We are currently in the process of revising current documents that advertise ways parents can get involved and volunteer. We will be sure to include this suggestion in the document. Once that information is finalized, we will post in on the webpage and email it to all parents.

STRATEGIC PLANNING/CURRICULUM

Suggestion	Next Steps
(Phase one/March-April) Curriculum Audit – should include dimension for low income/low performing students	Our Curriculum Audit will include Safety Net, ELL, and SPED programs. They will audit their curriculum and program implementation.
How long do changes get to stay in place before they are approved as success or pulled? What measurements are used? Is it school wide?	This is a great question and will be something our Common Agreements Committee will be discussing. Obviously we want to give initiatives several years to have an impact but we don’t want to continue practices that do not seem to be having an impact.

INTERNAL DATA COLLECTION

Suggestion	Next Steps
<p>Does Einstein collect info separately than state testing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Home work completion? ○ Improvement in math skills group assignment 	<p>We do not currently have an efficient way to collect data on homework completion. At this time, this does not seem to be a high yield task for us to invest significant time developing. Teachers do monitor the effectiveness of skills groups and adjust students up and down within skills groups as students improve or need additional support. We do not currently collect data on the number of students that move within groups but we are able to tell how many students improve on MSP and other assessments. This is something that can be communicated in the future.</p>

COMPARING TO OTHER SCHOOLS/PRIDE

Suggestion	Next Steps
<p>Benchmark nearby schools</p>	<p>We have data that compares Einstein's Non-Low Income students with Non-Low Income students from 3 neighboring schools. In almost every category, Einstein is within a few percentage points of each school. In some instances Einstein out performs those schools.</p>
<p>Teachers go to other schools to talk w/peers. What are their expectations? How much do they challenge their students?</p>	<p>This has been done in the past. It is challenging as there is not time within the district's contracted calendar for work of this nature. Each school is a unique culture of its own with very specific needs. What is considered more beneficial is for schools to collaborate with schools with similar demographics that are outperforming them. Our Safety Net Redesign Committee is currently in the process of doing this very thing. The goal is to learn from schools that are similar to ours about how they are excelling and meeting the needs of their diverse population.</p>

SCHOOL CULTURE AND EXTRA CURRICULAR ITEMS:

FIELD TRIPS

Suggestion	Next Steps
Audit and connect to academic learning/avoid redundancy over the 6 yr experience	The Common Agreements Committee is working on this and will have a decision made in this regard very soon.

PARENT EDUCATION

Suggestion	Next Steps
Parent-Peer mentoring	This is an excellent idea and will be considered as plans are developed for the Parent Education program.
Use Einstein parents as part of parent education	See above
Is school the right location? Maybe at transitional housing like the Homework Night Taught in more than one language? Partner with YMCA/HOPELINK, etc.	See above
I can see a lot of work has been done this far, and the meeting tonight is great. I can see with the qualified teacher and proper strategies, the school will excel. One of the key elements is to bring parents into involving series and I think we can get that started earlier by organizing certain class activity requires parents attendance (or after school activities)	See above
EXCELLENT! Recommendation for how it's built out – needs to build in a mentoring component. Classes are great! Some families won't adapt to the structure of class but might for groups/discussion/etc. Assuming this focuses on low income but how do we reach and attract the audience? What incentives could be offered?	See above

What can we learn or leverage from home schooling programs to help parents work more easily and effectively with their kids? Materials? Edutainment? Self organized events? Etc?	See above
Home Visits by Staff	While we love this idea, we do not currently have the resources to make this happen. We are hopeful that it will be something that can be considered in future years when resources are not so limited.

TECHNOLOGY

Suggestion	Next Steps
Kids love computers & video games. Gradually transfer work/exercises to an electronic format for better behind the scenes automated reports and improved visibility to all e.g. = Leapster creates reports for me so I can track son's use and progress.	We currently use several technology tools to supplement district adopted curriculum. It is clear that we need to communicate better about what resources we have and use. While we have flexibility in what supplementary materials we use, we are required to use the district adopted core curriculum so electronic format programs could not replace the that.

COMMUNICATION

Suggestion	Next Steps
Get the word out what we are doing well and what our gaps are	Mrs. Pointer is committed to using Ottermail, email, the school website, and all available district publications to celebrate Einstein's achievements. She is also sending press release information to the district Communication Officer as much as possible.
Clear talking points for our plan once it is finalized	The plans will be emailed to all parents and posted on our website. She will also hold annual Community Strategic Planning meetings to share the data, gather recommendations, and share plans.
Promote news/activities at Einstein, e.g. Redmond Reporter	See above.

PTSA ITEMS:

SCIENCE

Suggestion	Next Steps
Can we bring back an after school science program?	TBD
Mad Science - (Alcott does this)	TBD

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Suggestion	Next Steps
Can we expand on current offerings to make more options available?	TBD

FAMILY EVENTS

Suggestion	Next Steps
It seems that the events held at school are much better attended than the ones away from school. We need to look into holding more of them at the school	TBD

COMMUNITY CLOSET

Suggestion	Next Steps
TUFF shed to store donations on site. PTSA \$	We currently have a system in place to provide families with backpacks, coats, and clothes as needed. At this time, adding a shed was determined to be unnecessary.

DIVERSITY

Suggestion	Next Steps
International Club	TBD
International night is great, but can we celebrate the diversity of our school with more frequency? The diverse population offers an education in itself. Is there a way to use the diversity/share/culture/experience to benefit all students?	TBD
Ongoing promotion of diversity during the year; flags, holidays, phrases, etc.	TBD