



SESSION 3 REPORT – SCHOOL PLAN GUIDE REVIEW

NAME OF SCHOOL: WEIGAND

DATE OF SESSION 2: 11/7/2012

NAME OF ORGANIZATION REPORTING: Pathways

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL REPORTING YVONNE ARREOLA

DATE THIS REPORT IS COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED: 11/13/2012

REVIEWING YOUR EDUCATION, YOUR OPTIONS

I. Step One: Examining a School Plan Guide

The participants were divided into small working groups. Each group was given the task to review the School Plan Guide submitted by the Planning Team. Each of the groups spent 10-12 minutes reviewing the school plan, noted the questions they had and identified whether the school plan met their expectations in the following areas:

- 1) Student Vision
- 2) School Vision
- 3) School Performance: Where is the School Now?
- 4) School Priorities

The following is the captured feedback, questions, and comments the session participants provided as they reviewed each area of the School Plan Guide.

Area One: Student Vision

The major theme captured from the student vision comments and questions was the importance of having teachers capable of motivating students to do the best they can to succeed in all academic courses and be prepared to enter a university.

- To have the capacity to learn and interpret the English language as well as math)
- For the students to be able to achieve academic excellence and for the school to give build more capacity for teachers
- Can you tell us the method that will be implemented so that the students make it to College/University?
- What type of strategies will be used to foster the academic development of students?
- We need to motivate the children since elementary school so they can enter high school y be able to graduate and become someone/successful in life.
- Our students need to be able to learn and interpret the English language as well as math.



Public School Choice 4.0 Academy Session Reporting

The participants also shared comments about the supports provided to the student groups:

- “How can the school provide skills and knowledge that transfers to another school (middle school)?”
- “We need more explanation for strategies and training if they want us to help our children at home . . . right?”
- “We need the foundations of English and Math because it’s the ‘principle’ of learning.”
- “I helped my child and then she got an award for hard work!”
- “I think that the school vision should focus on increasing staff rapport with parents.”
- “Staff conflict should not interfere with learning.”

Area Two: School Vision

In this section the parents are requesting to have a relationship with the school staff. They want to feel heard and more involved in the progress of their student. Safety for the students around campus was also a common concern.

- What types of workshops will the school give so that we as parents become involved and help the academic development of the students?
- We want the school to prepare the students really well for College/University)
- We need more motivated teachers focusing on the students
- The school needs to be better in respect to its relationship with the community.
- I want a teacher better prepared/with more capacity to teach my daughter.
- Which types of workshops will the school provide so that we as parents can be involved and help the academic development of the students?

Area Three: School Performance

In this section parents expressed dissatisfaction with the academic level in which their students are currently testing at Weigand.

- The school needs more motivation, more tutoring programs, and more support to push the students to move forward without pressuring them.
- I would like to see better student achievement so that they are at grade level.
- The school is moving forward gradually, but at this pace, how long will it take for the school to achieve the desired level academically?
- We need more teachers motivated and focused in their classrooms and willing/able to help our sons/daughters.
- I would like fewer cuts to the academic staff.
- We need the school to prepare our students for the University.



Area Four: School Priorities

The school priority is to have good teachers that will motivate the students to improve in their language and mathematic skills.

- More types/selection of help for those students that are low in their academic level)
- Tutoring in math and reading
- More support for students that are classified “below proficiency”
- We need to have better programs and good teachers who can motivate our children.
- We should ask and asses the kids to know what they need/want so that the teachers know.



Session 3 Report – Dialogues with Planning Teams

This section is composed of two parts: 1) The Planning Team Presentation, and 2) the questions and answers dialogue with the planning team.

Planning Team Name: **Weigand Avenue Elementary School**

1. Part One: Planning Team Presentation

The first presenter was the Principal. The team described their school plan via oral Presentation. There were (4) school teaching staff members who spoke on behalf of the team and introduced the school plan:

The Principal started the presentation by sharing areas of improvement. The Principal moved onto referring to the Habits of the Mind. She began to mention “focus”, but commented on while the school is dedicated and well-meaning, was behind on various areas. The Principal mentioned that there are other areas in which students excel – music and art. The Principal stated that the school will be incorporating workshops that will address Math concerns. The Principal commented on the need for the importance of high level education institutions supporting primary education, the various methods to improve student achievement, and the importance of the Principal to read to each child, know every student, and have a “documented plan” for student achievement.

Priorities for the students and school shared by the presenting team included the following:

- a) The need to build the capacity of teachers. The school Principal shared that the leadership of the school is working with every teacher to build capacity.*
- b) The Principal expressed the need for the school to work with the parents and demonstrate how together “we can lift the school”. There is a need for more focus.*
- c) The school has a lot of talent (as in talented students) and art and music need to be supported. Understanding that children know and appreciate their own work.*
- d) There is a need for a foundation in literacy.*
- e) Students need to learn how to evaluate their own work.*
- f) We need to develop and focus on the student’s communication ability.*

Other points presented during the presentation included:

- a) The need to change the culture so kids know about college. There will be a club for kids to address this need.*
- b) The need for the school Principal to know (school Principal referring to herself in the third person to emphasize that she will be on top of this areas with the implementation of the plan) what is good teaching, good curriculum, and to communicate. Demonstrate the mastery of leadership and subject matter. Needs to know what is happening on each grade and sit down with the kids.*



- c) *The School Principal emphasized that she is not doing it alone but rather by being part of a great team.*

2. Part Two: Questions and Answers

The following were questions directed to the ***Weigand Leadership Team***:

- 1) **Question:** Are you going to build capacity of teachers? Will teachers be trained more (due to the decrease in test scores) and be able to put kids back at grade level?
Answer: We are building continuous capacity. We are planning and assessing to better improve the proficiency level of kids so they are at grade level. We are delivering trainings school wide and at teach grade level. We are also identifying strategies and examining and monitoring students' effectiveness.
- 2) **Question:** How are you providing attention for children w/ special needs? How are you making sure these students are getting the education needed?
Answer: First instruction in the classroom is a good "First Teach". We are providing teaching that has depth and integrity. We are running diagnostics on every student for reading, writing and comprehension to provide small group instruction and support other lower students four days a week.
- 3) **Question:** Have you considered other forms of instruction? Have you considered letting the students work in groups so they can build confidence?
Answer: Communication is the third big component of the plan. All kids are different and we have to honor how they learn. Kids are very included in the creation of the learning environment. We need the students to learn to read and pull out information from the content. We also help them learn from each other. We go from small class instruction to bigger groups. Our environment engages multiple expression and talents. Students learn by doing with others in collaboration. The dynamics of instruction go beyond small groups.
- 4) **Question:** How are you going to motivate the kids even though they are shy in groups so they don't feel pressured? How do you expect students to feel comfortable with instruction?
Answer: Since Kindergarten we teach students to embrace diversity. From day one we establish rules about respect. We listen to the kids and correct them (as in correct their expressions and vocabulary). We try for them to speak English so they learn and practice correctly. The teachers and Principal added that they offer incentives for good academic performance. "Effort is tied to outcomes" and kids can see their own outcome. The Principal gave examples of incentives for students such as Pizza Hut certificates. The entire staff can be better, but we meet weekly and are dedicated and have the desire to teach every child.
- 5) Where are the other good teachers? Besides you and your group?



Public School Choice 4.0 Academy Session Reporting

Answer: The school Principal answered “This is the team writing the plan. I think all teachers are good. We are working to get better. This is what the plan is about. This team has a desire to teach every child.”

6) **Question:** What can you do for children how need more than learning the ABCs and numbers?

Answer: I am a 3rd grade teacher. I am in conferences with parents. I have given them work for home to support the learning. We need the home to practice with the student. Parents also need to supervise the teachers. “Have you communicated to the teacher? She/he can provide information that can assist you at home.”



Session 3 Report – Participant Feedback Form Responses

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK FORM NARRATIVE & RESPONSES

1. Student Vision	Does Not Meets My Expectations	Partially Meets My Expectations	Meets My Expectations	Exceeds My Expectations
The writing team identified the skills and knowledge that students will gain to be prepared for the next level of learning.	1	10	23	3
The writing team has clearly identified what students will know, understand, and be able to do when they leave this school.	1	6	26	2
TOTALS PER COLUMN	2	16	49	5

There were no major themes, but the written comments were as follows:

- I think that it would be better to have a new principal to see progress in the school. I feel that she does not care enough about the students' education; we have seen teachers come and go, and she brings new teachers that are friends of her. This is not good.
- I want my children to reach their dreams but for that to happen they need to excel in the academics.
- We want the teachers to stay
- The plan sounds very nice but I need more information as to the strategies that will be used to get results.
- According to the plan, the students will develop their skills in writing and mathematics, and that they will graduate ready to go to college, but how will the plan be implemented in order to rise the student's learning level?
- I want more programs such as music, school band, and art so that the kinds learn to communicate and to behave.
- We want better food, drinkable water, clear bathrooms equipped with toilet paper and paper towels.

2. School Vision	Does Not Meets My Expectations	Partially Meets My Expectations	Meets My Expectations	Exceeds My Expectations
The writing team has identified what the school culture will feel like for parents and students.	3	15	18	
The writing team has identified what the school must do to make sure that all students are successful and prepared to go to the next school level and beyond.	3	12	19	3
TOTALS PER COLUMN	6	27	37	3



Public School Choice 4.0 Academy Session Reporting

Participants written comments for this section were as follows:

- We need skilled teachers that are able to determine if the students have any problems such as dyslexia or visual problems that hinder their ability to read the information on the board.
- I would like to know that you will always be there to help us with our children as parents actively involved because we want the best for our children.
- I would like to see parents spending more time in the school helping with cleaning, planting and even more important watering the plants, because if we don't do it our effort will be in vain.
- I would like to see more parent involvement as members of the school.
- I think that these are just promises, I hear about changes but everything is the same, or worse. We want action not just words.

3. Student Performance: Where is the School Now?	Does Not Meets My Expectations	Partially Meets My Expectations	Meets My Expectations	Exceeds My Expectations
The writing team identified areas within the school's performance that highlight areas of strength.	3	15	16	1
The writing team identified areas of concern where growth is needed.	6	7	18	5
The writing team demonstrated a thorough analysis of data to address the needs of all student groups.	1	14	17	3
TOTALS PER COLUMN	10	36	51	9

There were only six written comments for this section and they expressed a concern about the need for more planning and academic intervention with students.

- In order to have good planning, the school should provide more and better workshops on Reading and Mathematics for student development.
- The academic level needs to improve. I think that we need parent support and teachers need to do their job as well.
- Better hygiene in the bathrooms and better food for the students.
- Thank you for supporting our children.
- How long is it going to take the principal and the teachers to implement the strategies for students and parents?
- I do know that the school scored "F" and that it has been a low achieving school since 1997. I am not happy about this and I want to see progress.



Public School Choice 4.0 Academy Session Reporting

4. School Turnaround: School Plan Priorities	Does Not Meets My Expectations	Partially Meets My Expectations	Meets My Expectations	Exceeds My Expectations
The writing team identified the top priorities for the school to improve student achievement.	3	10	22	1
The writing team clearly demonstrated that they know where the school is now and what needs to be done to get to the school of the future where all students are high achievers.	4	11	19	1
The writing team identified various strategies that will be used to ensure the success of students.	2	11	19	3
The writing team identified support that is needed for their faculty and staff to turnaround the school.	4	6	25	1
TOTALS PER COLUMN	13	38	85	6

The following written comments did not have a central theme but expressed a concern about the school leadership.

- What we need is a new principal. We need someone with a strong personality who is willing to make changes that will benefit the students. We need to gather parent signatures to get rid of her work with the assistant principal to make changes.
- As parents, we also need to know the material been used to teach the students.
- More school supplies
- I like the idea of providing support and intervention for the students that are performing below the basic level.
- I am not very happy with the school because my son has not learned adequately. He is hyperactive. I asked for help and the school did not provide any support. In Kindergarten they were aware of the problem and I received many complaints about his behavior but they did not do anything about it. I want the school to provide the necessary support for my child.