



SESSION 3 REPORT – SCHOOL PLAN GUIDE REVIEW

NAME OF SCHOOL: WOODCREST ELEMENTARY

DATE OF SESSION 3: 11/28/2012

NAME OF ORGANIZATION REPORTING: Building Skills Partnership

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL REPORTING IN BEHALF OF THE ORGANIZATION: DANIEL PAREDES

DATE THIS REPORT IS COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED: 11/29/2012

REVIEWING YOUR EDUCATION, YOUR OPTIONS

The participants were divided into small working groups. Each group was given the task to review the School Plan Guide submitted by the Woodcrest Elementary School's planning team. The participants in the focus groups went over the proposed plan with the guidance of a staff member of the PSC team and a member of the planning team. The focus groups reviewed the school plan to see if it 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.

Section One: Student Vision

Theme # 1: College and Career Ready

The participants' overall comments showed approval of the plan. However, in the verbal and written feedback about the student vision participants had questions and wanted more clarification about how the school would get students college and career readiness.

- In what ways will the school get help in being career ready?
- I like the fact that our children are starting to think about the university.
- In which way do the schools hope to reach the goals and expectations of student achievement so that they can have a university education and what type of methods or specific knowledge will be implemented to reach the already established goals?
- I like the focus on the goal towards university success.
- How will they prepare students for a university career?
- How to prepare the student for his surrounding world.



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- Children must think better and we also must support them. For my child with autism to get to a university.
- How to prepare for the future in school. So that they understand and for this to serve as learning y they develop to understand their studies.
- How will you reach the goal of children going to a university and be ready for a career?
- Individual tutoring for low performing children. Prepare them for a university. I liked it.
- Several parents wrote, “Process was very clear”.
- I feel everything is excellent, I don’t think anything is missing; I think it will be a great plan.
- I agree with these points and I can see the improvement.
- I think that the school has improved because they have paid attention to me in the office; when I have asked for it, they have collaborated.
- I think it is fine but that we need to make a great effort to that this can take place.
- I agree with these points since understanding the point of how this helps the student
- Physical development, I feel that a sports education is necessary. The student preparation seems excellent.

Other comments and concerns:

- In which ways will the student participate and contribute to their community?
- How can we better the African-American groups that are lacking in their education and that have lower attendance? How do can we raise their grade scores?
- Has there been any new implementation in the classroom to assist with critical thinking skills.
- There needs to be security. To plan good things for the schools like parks and gardens for children to be happy. For them to not have problems going to school because they don’t feel well. That way they will have good grades.
- I think it looks very good. But to help our kids we the parent have to do our part and help our student.
- We need tutoring in the school so that they can help the children who are behind.
- We want exchanges from school to school so that they can learn more things from one another.
- I think that teaching children to develop their academic skills based on the personality of each student and respecting each one of them will yield greater development.

Section Two: School Vision

Theme #1: Student Safety

The participants’ overall comments showed approval of the plan. However, in the verbal and written feedback about the school vision participants expressed that there was a concern for student safety.

- How will the children feel safe about peer pressure?



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- How can students go to school without being bullied or peer pressured by another student?
- We want them to have security and supervision when children come to school and when they are at school.
- Fort the school to be clean and for them to be careful in the play ground. We will feel really good for our children. For the school to be advanced.
- I think that the students need a place where they can learn to develop completely, without any restriction and that parents as well as teachers work together to keep children safe and create an educational system more active and concrete.
- Fort the school to have more staff supervising the children.
- There should be safety in traffic.
- For the people who work in the cafeteria to be more polite when they talk.
- How to instruct children to have better discipline. How to improve the plan to implement better security at school. For everyone on staff to be trained to improve how they treat children.
- I agree with the vision. Everything is straight to the point, and I always feel welcome at my child's school anytime.
- Meet the goals and higher expectation by reading writing and spelling. The vision seems clear. Hopefully there will be higher participation from parents.
- I agree with the points and if we follow them we will be successful.
- I agree with the plan, because in reality we can work together to have students who are more prepared and a safer school.
- Excellent proposals, everything is fine.

Theme #2: Parent Involvement

The participants also shared the following verbal and written feedback about the school vision and agreed that parent involvement is essential for school and student success.

- Good. I think it's good that we as parents can participate in providing school materials.
- How can we get parents to get more involved in the school? It will be a better way to communicate with the parents the needs for the school and the child.
- Sharing, effort, and unity will make us improve our goals to improve what we want for our schools.
- These points made me understand that unity, respect, and cooperation will make us successful.
- It is important to no leave our language to the side so that we can communicate easily.
- All children are intelligent and with the adequate pedagogy from the teachers and the support of the parents, we can reach our objectives for our schools.



Other comments and concerns not belonging to the main themes were:

- What things are in place now in order for the school to make sure that students are successful and prepared?
- We have the image that because we live in a poor area we can't excel. But, we all have the capacity and we must exploit it. How many brilliant people come out of poor areas?
- For the staff to always be polite and to always be attentive to parents when they need help.
- For all children to understand and ask for more information from teachers.
- For children to learn to fix their mistakes and to change the bad for the good and leave the bad behind.

Section Three: School Performance: Where is the School Now?

Theme #1 Ensuring Student Success

The participants shared the following verbal and written feedback about the school performance and had questions about what will be done to continue to improve school and student performance.

- How will the low test scores improve? What will be done to ensure that each child receive special attention in each struggling area of academics?
- We got that we grew by 46 points, but what do we do to keep the growth with the reading, writing, math, communication of parent, teacher coming together.
- Several parents asked, "How will you ensure that fifth grade students are prepared for middle school? "
- For children to give all they can give and work their full capacity for their age.
- I think it is excellent how teachers work with students and how to improve. I think all points are excellent. For everyone to improve.
- I believe that the school is trying to improve their performance with the students and with some hard work they will meet the proficient standards.
- I hope we meet the goal of using interesting programs because there are children with low learning levels.
- For us as parents to help our children but for teachers to be more patient when explaining things to our children and for them to get more materials so that they don't fall behind.

Theme #2 Importance of Cultural Integration

The participants shared the following verbal and written feedback about the school performance and agreed that it was important to acknowledge cultural differences and implement strategies that work well with each subgroup.

- Yes that sounds awesome, the way you are helping students in learning a new language to those that need that help.
- I liked CRRE because it takes culture as a strategy to help our children



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- It is important to accept who we are. I like the CRRE.
- Student progress in math and English. Teach children to others the way they are.
- How will we help the African-American kid build up their grades and other kids as well?
- Low performing school. The safety, discipline, and attention to parents are all fine. The annual school information and test scores. To address each group directly according to their origin and culture.
- At this moment the learning is in English and they understand the humanities.

Theme #3: Safety/Security

The participants' overall comments showed approval of the plan. However, in the verbal and written feedback about the school performance participants expressed that there was a concern for student safety.

- There are drugs, thieves, and shootings. For there to be security inside and outside the school, for them to have parks and gardens.
- I want to ask for my priority which is to keep pre-kinder and kinder at Woodcrest for these programs help the youngest children and it helps them get ahead. I also want improvement in the cafeteria and the restrooms, more supervision in the playground.
- I think that we have to first focus on parents, teachers, and the district to get our children to reach the already established goals of improvement and not look to justify why the school is low performing as a result of the lack of safety and poverty in the area where the school is.
- Improve grades. There is not enough staff to take care of the children in the playground and the restrooms.

Other comments and concerns not belonging to the main themes were:

- Is the school in current transition with the provided strategies offered for student success or are we waiting for the district's approval?
- Understanding and helping each student's needs for proficiency is clear.
- I think this good.
- Several participants wrote, "The foundation is to have pre-kinder and kinder (to make it mandatory for school). If we keep these classes in school it would help with student achievement".

Section Four: School Priorities

Theme #1: Teacher Student Interaction

The participants shared the following verbal and written feedback about the school priorities and expressed that they were concerned with the way teachers interact with students.

- Learn how to address teachers about this situation and what the solutions are?
- Teachers learning how to help a child that might have a bad day having time to find the problem taking time to help the child with work they may not understand what are the teachers doing to



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help a child who behaves badly? Will there be English students taking Spanish class, more places for children after school more programs.

- For teachers to be more specific with students so that they can do their best in their homework, their discipline, and to have more responsibility for their academic success. I, as a mother, commit myself to help my children to be respectful, responsible, and cooperate. Cooperate in their studies.

Theme #2: Safety/Security

The participants shared the following verbal and written feedback about the school priorities and wrote that the school should be concerned with the safety and security of the students.

- This is an interesting plan, but we also need more security on behalf of the adults who take care of the children. We need teachers who pay attention to what they are lacking as teachers so that children learn to correct theirs and have better behavior.
- Improve safety; that should be the priority of the school. Tutoring at school for children who are behind.
- For the teachers to have more ideas that they bring from other schools that are more advanced.
- Improve the playground, cafeteria, and the restroom. Interact with the students.
- For there to always be supervision and security to avoid accidents and fights.

Theme #3: Addressing Discipline and Behavior

The participants shared the following verbal and written feedback about the school priorities and were concerned about what would be done with children that display bad behavior and what disciplinary action would be taken.

- Several parents commented, “Discipline and cooperation from all.”
- Discipline, I think that when a child misbehaves he/she shouldn’t be sent home, rather he/she should be given more work than normal.
- How will children’s behavior improve? What will you do so that teachers improve their teaching in the classroom?
- How will the people who supervise children change their attitude and how will the cafeteria workers improve?
- How will you improve the behavior or the discipline among students? How will you improve teacher training?
- How will you improve children’s discipline? How will you improve teacher instruction? When you bring a substitute teacher check that he/she is well-trained for the job.

Theme #4: Ensuring Student Success

The participants shared the following verbal and written feedback about the school priorities and were concerned about what will be done to continue to improve school and student performance.



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- I think there should be more hands on lessons for the kids to get a better understanding for the future.
- The best way to help our kids is working together and helping one another so we can make it easy on our kids to follow all rules.
- What are the priorities for the students who are in certain groups that have a lower learning and behavioral problem?
- What are the needs of the African American students to improve their performance? This seems to be the least performing group. Hoping parents of this group will support us. The support of the community is greatly needed.
- Several parents commented, “Identify low performing students. Work with each group. To have internal academic contests in math, English and Reading. Designate the two best students once a month (one boy and one girl) from each level. For example, the best students from 1st grade, and best students from the 3rd grade, etc. Designate teacher of the month once a month”
- You said that you are creating a system: Is it a district program? Is it a program that has been successful or is it something that you will develop on your own? Will you provide training for the children to be peer mediators? Will you provide training for parents?
- To make changes for children to have a good future. How should we work for school to grow?

Other comments and concerns not belonging to the main themes were:

- I would like for the school to be bilingual. For them to give this more priority.
- Are all the teachers and staff in favor of all the plans put into place to ensure the success of our students? Are there ways besides sending flyers home that parents are aware of the Woodcrest school plan?
- Excellent proposals, everything is fine.
- For them to give priority to a Christian education and more written and spoken Spanish.
- I really like the structure that will be implemented for the School priorities.

Session 3 Report – Dialogues with Planning Teams

This section of the report is divided into 2 parts: 1) The Planning Team Presentation, the 2) Questions and Answers period.

Part One: Planning Team Presentation

The Woodcrest Elementary School Planning Team provided session participants with a quick summary of their plan. A bilingual copy of the summary was provided to each of the participants. Ms. Jackson spoke on behalf of the team and described the school plan and the expectations they had for the students of Woodcrest along with her team.

- The planning team went over their vision for the students and the school. They firmly believe that all children can perform at higher levels regardless of cultural/socioeconomic background. The planning team expressed that their focus is on helping each child achieving success.
- Ms. Robles explained that they're seeing academic growth at Woodcrest. She commented that they expected it to continue to grow with support from teachers and parents and that parent support was key for academic growth.
- Ms. Jackson explained that they've taken into consideration everything that parents have commented, requested, and asked during the parent workshops. She commented that they want to focus on writing, reading, and math. Woodcrest is currently focusing on that now and they're seeing success which is why the school has grown by 46 points.
- Ms. Harris explained that they collected data and surveys and made observations to see where the areas of strengths were. She commented that the English learners are doing well in CSFS and that suspension rate is down. Acknowledging that students are working together to be in school. She commented that 100% of the teachers at Woodcrest were behind this plan.
- Ms. Jackson mentioned that an area of concern was the low student achievement among certain subgroups. They want to focus their attention on the subgroups which don't come up using different strategies to improve performance.
- Mr. Alcocer commented that a goal of theirs was to have a positive school environment to improve behavior and school attendance.
- Ms. Jackson explained that she conducts walkthroughs with teachers throughout the school to identify what areas need more development.

Part Two: Questions and Answers

The following were questions directed to the team after sharing the different sections:



1. A parent asked, **“How do you plan to address the needs of the different cultural groups?”**

Answer Ms. Jackson: We’ve put into place the AEMP to ensure that students continue to learn. We have students participate in specific activities and we’ve included culturally relevant books in the library so students can open a book and see themselves in it. Our focus is to embrace diversity, we have ESL classes for adults that are interested and we have also talked about having a Spanish class. That’s something that I would like to learn I’m sure there are more parents here that would like to learn Spanish too.

2. A parent commented, **“It’s nice to hear, Ms. Harris explain about how each child learns differently. I would like to congratulate you for focusing on the needs of the students and I would like to encourage you to keep doing great work.”**

Answer Ms. Harris: I want to learn how to be a better teacher. I’m using this plan to help me learn. I’m learning how to teach different student types and how to use the different strategies for different learners. I’m proud of my fellow teachers who attended a “Growing Educators Conference” on their own time to continue to learn. Many of the Woodcrest students were sitting right in the center row ready to learn.

3. A parent commented, **“There was mention of child behavioral issues, I think there needs to be more security staff and video cameras to watch over students.”**

Answer Ms. Jackson: We do need more staff. Our parent volunteers are doing a great job. I see them on the halls telling kids to slow down and keeping watch. Due to the budget cuts we aren’t able to hire additional security. We appreciate the support we get from the parents.

4. A parent asked, **“Do we have to wait for the plan to be approved before the implementation begins?”**

Answer Ms. Jackson: Definitely not. We started implementation of the plan last year, which is why we saw an increase of 46 points.

Answer Mr. Alcocer: Many of the strategies have been already taking place. As the years go by we will be fine tuning things. By analyzing the data and as we see results we will continue to use the strategies that work and fine tune what hasn’t worked.

Answer Ms. Heckman: What’s on the plan is what we’ve been implementing ever since Ms. Jackson has been here. That allows us to make realistic goals and place realistic objectives.

5. A parent commented, **“I’m currently in the ESL class, but there are only a few people attending. Maybe we can join the class with the Spanish learners to have a bigger**



group. We also need a bilingual teacher. The teacher we have now only speaks English and sometimes it's difficult to understand the teacher. Attendance of the class was higher before when it was free."

Answer Ms. Jackson: Thank you for your comments. Due to the budget cuts the district was forced to start charging for the ESL classes. That is a great idea about learning together, both English and Spanish learners.

6. A parent commented, **"We need better personnel in the yard. I noticed that the adults that are supposed to look after the students gather in small groups and talk while they're out there. They should walk around and pay better attention so there can be better vigilance of the children in the yard. I agree with the different strategies for different learners. The teacher complains that my daughter moves around too much and is restless, but her test scores reflect that she's doing well. Teachers need to pay more attention to the different ways that the children learn. Also, one time my daughter forgot to use the restroom after lunch and when she asked the teacher for permission to use the restroom she was denied. If we're uncomfortable when we need to use the restroom, imagine how the children feel. We need to be more aware of those needs so the children don't become ill."**

Answer Ms. Jackson: Thank you for your comments. We teachers want to continue to receive these comments so we can continue to better ourselves and grow.



Session 3 Report – Participant Feedback Form Responses

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK FORM NARRATIVE & RESPONSES

Total forms: 39

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	8	21	8
The writing team has clearly identified what students will know, understand, and be able to do when they leave this school.	0	8	21	9
TOTALS PER COLUMN	1	16	42	17

The following written comments expressed the parents' main theme of approval of the plan and hope for success of its implementation.

Approval of the plan

1. The plan was well thought out. The planning team recognizes the dynamics of the community and implemented strategies surrounding that. From what I gather it seems that they are planning to prepare the children to increase their learning skills and prepare them for success to the next grade level.
2. I think that what I heard earlier meets my expectations on how we should be able to teach students. They know the best way to learn.
3. I really hope this plan comes true. I like it, it sounds very good.
4. Yes, I think the plan is awesome and I hope all parents of all grades help their kids to achieve their goals.
5. Process was very clear.
6. They're all good plans but they need more things to make it a way better plan.
7. I feel the information was properly addressed in all areas except gifted students.
8. The planning really hit key points on how they will prepare the students to write and be prepared to go to the next school level. I really think this will help our students.
9. Everything is excellent; we need more funding from the state.
10. It was an excellent vision plan.

Other

11. It talked about how we can work to make the school safe and a better place but I would like more of teacher to understand the kids that might have needs I liked the whole plan because they propose working together for the good of the students.



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12. Improve and add Christian education and physical education and sports.
13. We want that everything that has been planned to be not only spoken but be focus tested along with the performance of all of the planning team members.
14. How will you prepare the children for college?
15. By becoming familiar with the skills and knowledge of the student, the teachers' teaching methodology is facilitated.
16. I would like for special education students to be included.
17. How to prepare for the future in the school.
18. As parents we would like for the children to be encouraged that they can succeed instead of them being yelled at out in the garden. The plan should not forget the special (education) children and the school should be more careful with them.
19. That they have other cultures.
20. I would like to know more about how and which methods will be used to achieve the goals and proposals. Will the teachers be offered more training or what type of support will be offered to teachers and to students?

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	9	19	6
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.	0	10	17	6
TOTALS PER COLUMN	3	19	36	12

The following written comments expressed a theme to provide more student support both in academic and behavioral areas.

Academic and Behavioral support

1. I think that noticing and acknowledging that there are behavioral issues here at Woodcrest and focusing more on the issues will really help the child's learning and the learning of others as well 'cause when our child acts up, it throws focus off other children.
2. I wonder how students will be able to learn in a bullying and peer-pressure school environment.
3. The school needs a vision like this to help the students.
4. I think that some kids really need the summer classes to reach this goal. Summer class will for sure help them prepare to go to the next level.
5. Yes, it looks good all that it's the plan to do. For all students to meet their goals.
6. Classrooms are overcrowded; too many students, not enough attention. Improve this please.
7. That all students succeed, commit to studying, listening, reading, writing, and help all students to be



in the same level.

8. More focus more on explaining more to the students in the classroom.
9. We expect this to be done before the kids are already out of this school are prepared to go the next school and that they will be proud of everything they were taught in elementary school. Thank you.
10. I think that knowledge lies in diversity and I think that if teachers and students become aware of this it will create great achievements.
That each staff receives training so that they will treat the children better.

Other

11. Want to feel more on the need of the African American students.
12. I'm happy to hear how the school is working to evenly educate students to better them as a person.
13. For the cultural intervention programs and an emphasis on college preparedness.
14. I agree with vision #2. Everything is straight to the point
15. It's a great opportunity, great plan.
16. School staff better able to assist parents.
17. If they are already identified things to do to improve, let's move forward!
18. That they are kinder in the cafeteria.
19. That the school is successful for the children.
20. They should take into account the culture of other countries.

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.	2	8	22	6
The writing team identified areas of concern where growth is needed.	1	8	23	6
The writing team demonstrated a thorough analysis of data to address the needs of all student groups.	1	10	17	8
TOTALS PER COLUMN	4	26	62	20

The following written comments expressed the parents' feedback on the importance to focus on supporting the earlier class grades (Pre-K and Kinder) and improve/support student performance.

Pre-K and Kinder

1. I want to ask (about) my priority which is that pre-kindergarten and kindergarten remain established at Woodcrest School. Many children have succeeded because of this program. Many children in pre-kindergarten can already write their name.
2. It's important to remark that a student have a record of pre-kindergarten and kindergarten for best performance.
3. The foundation is to have pre-kindergarten and kindergarten.



Student Performance

4. How will you ensure that 5th grade children are prepared for middle school?
5. I just want to see improvement in all kids as well as others that are lacking in bringing up their grades.
6. Have you have identified the areas that need improvement, including high performance areas.
7. Because they recognized their faults and their areas of growth for example, they improved by 46 points.
8. I believe that the school is trying to improve their performance with the students and with the hard work of teacher and parents they will meet their proficient standards.
9. They need special groups to help the kids that are farther behind than the rest.
10. The African-American growth in their studies need to be addressed more to bring their scores up. The overall concerns addressed.
11. Helping all students by identifying their needs and helping them be at their grade level.

Other

12. The state of more funding for more staff in the school.
13. No. Until we ask for more explanations.
14. For me, the whole plan looked very good. We hope everything goes well and that everything will soon be implemented and that we see results soon for we need them.
15. Some areas were identified but other areas such as the safety of other children were not identified.
16. I do not think we are the first school in wanting to reach that goal. There are schools nearby with better plans. I think we should take note.
17. I wish there was a nurse all the time so that my daughter and others do not have to miss school because of their medications.
18. I loved it.
19. Kids with bad behavior need a professional counselor.
20. It is good that Woodcrest is doing what it needs to do for the students.

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.	0	11	18	7
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.	0	9	18	9
The writing team identified various strategies that will be used to ensure the success of students.	0	8	21	7



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The writing team identified support that is needed for their faculty and staff to turnaround the school.	2	7	20	7
TOTALS PER COLUMN	2	35	77	30

The following written comments shared by the participants expressed a need to address behavioral issues and jointly provide support for all students.

Behavioral Issues

1. I liked everything about the discipline and all that was discussed and hopefully everything is accomplished.
2. Mutual respect, cooperation, and willingness.
3. What are the priorities for students who are in certain groups that have a lower learning and behavioral problems? Learn how to address the teachers about this situation and what the solutions are.
4. School needs to group bad behavior students and talk to them about the consequences of their behavior.

Support for Students

5. How will you improve child (school) discipline? Substitute teachers should be well trained for the job and be responsible and competent.
6. I think we are all in this together. Parents, teachers, and students are going to work together and we will ensure that the plan is carried out, thanks.
7. You need to organize a meeting every month between parents and teachers, to gain confidence and work together.
8. I think that together we can improve every type of performance for (from) our children. We also want more cooperation from all staff to work together in the performance of children.
9. What will you do for teachers to improve their teaching in the classroom?
10. School requires a lot of support and more training.
11. The teacher showed excitement in addressing the needs of all students and to implement them.
12. They have good goals but they need to motivate the kids and push them to achieve their goals in the tests or CST's
13. Thank you for making these workshops and meetings to inform us parents of all of your plans to help our children.
14. The planning team acknowledges that in order to be successful they would collectively need support from students, staff, teachers, and the community (parents).

Other

15. Give us more information about the workshops.
16. It was a great meeting.
17. Overall I'm glad that the School is willing to work with parents and students to better.
18. I really like the structures that will be implemented for the school priorities.



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19. I would like to see more support on kids who are in need of more hands on time so they can really soak in the lesson at hand.
20. This will help the school turn around.