

Principal's Report for Peirce Elementary

Principal Lori Zaimi

March 24, 2016

Competency A: Champions Teacher and Staff Excellence Through a Focus on Continuous Improvement to Develop and Achieve the Vision of High Expectations for All Students

- CIWP Updates
- Data Based Decision Making, Supports and develops high functioning teams
- School personnel and financial resources are used to support CIWP priorities.
- Creates a safe and orderly environment.

- CIWP Focus Groups and parent surveys are completed. Teacher feedback is still being collected. Our top 5 priority areas for 2016-2018 are Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, Balanced Assessment and Grading, Restorative Approaches to Discipline, Relational Trust and Curriculum. The CIWP will be ready for the LSC to review before the April meeting and a vote approving the plan will be requested at the April meeting.
- Nora Hughes, Dave Tilson and Joe Dunne are working on summarizing the Parent survey results, some feedback coming from the parent focus groups have centered around increasing the number of field trip experiences students have throughout grade levels, consider a no homework policy in the primary grades, continue to develop our student council to take on leadership roles in school-wide decision making, define civic engagement for students and increase opportunities throughout the school as it relates to our work with IB, consider developing a safety patrol, think more about the role of movies during instruction and what role these have for instructional purposes, develop a school motto, cheer, song (or use what the school had from historical collections), inform parents on what restorative practices are and how the school uses them,
- Attendance for the year started strong but has dropped rapidly over the last 2 months. Kindergarten, 1st and 6th grade attendance are lower this year than at this point last year. All other grade levels are above where they were last year. Currently our attendance is at 96.33%, our goal is 96.3%. Last year overall attendance at the end of year was 96.1%
- 7 Chromebook carts arrived! Those have been distributed to teams throughout the building. We are very close to being at a 1-1 ratio of devices to students in 3rd-8th grades.

- Assistant Principal and Counselor continue to meet with students and provide appropriate supports.
- Assistant Principal is visible during lunch and recess - making several trips a week and providing feedback to staff on student supports and supervision.
- Peirce is asked to save 78K for the remainder of the year from CPS - principal will need to make sure that every purchase made from now until end of the year is absolutely necessary. We will maintain all of our after school and sports programs. We will continue to provide sub coverage for teachers to engage in IB unit development as we go through the authorization process.
- The PARCC test will begin on Monday, March 28th - a letter has gone home to families with the testing schedule.

Competency B: Creates Powerful Professional Learning Systems to Guarantee Learning for All Students.

- Lesson Plan and Unit Development aligned to IB standards and CCSS.
- Curriculum Planning with a focus on our Diverse Learner and English Language Learner population.
- Ongoing Professional Development and instructional coaching
- REACH Teacher Observations with constructive feedback provided to teachers.
- Staff hiring

- We have received 1 additional Sp.Ed. teaching position, request was made for 2 positions, 1 was granted, bringing our total Sp.Ed. team to 10 teaching positions. We have 2 remaining vacancies and continue to interview for these positions.
- We received 1 Sp.Ed. classroom assistant substitute position - a sub is sent to us daily through the end of the year.
- Ruth Jetton will join the Peirce team on April 4th as our 6th grade Science Teacher. Ruth comes to us with extensive experience in IB.
- PK-5th Grade teachers participated in extended planning the week of March 21st to continue their IB unit development.
- The Sexual Health curriculum has begun being implemented in many grade levels - notifications have gone home to those grade levels that are implementing. A few grade levels will implement during the 4th quarter.
- IB Coordinators and Principal attended an IIBS workshop at GEMS school, this was an opportunity to meet other administrators of IB schools and look for ways to enhance our current program.
- (2) 5th grade teachers attended a research lesson at Boone on March 18th.

- Peirce is sending 14 staff members to the Chicago Lesson Study conference on May 5th and 6th.
- Our 3rd grade team continues to meet to develop their math research lesson on elapsed time. They will implement their lesson at the end of April, Dr. Takahashi will attend and provide final comments on the lesson.
- Principal and MYP Coordinator continue to meet with Mary Beck and David Gregg at Senn HS on our MYP articulation. We continue to work on increasing the number of students who attend the Senn IB Diploma program for high school along with cross-school work on the Approaches to Learning.
- 2 staff members attended the NABE (National Association of Bilingual Educators).
- PYP coordinator attended an IB conference in Bethesda, Maryland as part of the work with the Illinois Association of IB World Schools.
- A group of teachers will pilot the use of student-led conferences during our upcoming parent-teacher conference day. An informational meeting was held on March 22nd for interested parents.
- Grade Level meetings with teachers have focused on Opening/Closing of lessons, we found an increase in the number of lessons that had an explicit opening, however, we continue to focus on how teachers are closing their lessons/linking learning objectives. In addition, GLM over the last month have focused on inquiry peer-observations and sharing of learning, BAG Data Review, PARCC Test administration, MAWI Book Talk and CIWP Feedback.

Competency C: Builds a Culture Focused on College and Career Readiness

- Academic and Social Emotional Learning Goals, Student Portfolios
- College Visits, HS Visits, Career Day
- Access to an enriching curriculum which includes the arts and science.
- Use of restorative practices for student supports.

- Students in 7th and 8th grades work with GEAR Up - some classrooms have GEAR Up tutors supporting teachers during the school day.
- Student Council will present to the LSC on school uniforms.
- We had 20 SCC violations from Feb 19th to March 23rd:
 - (2) Level 1 Violations - Restorative conversation.
 - (11) Level 2 Violations - Restorative conversation + Phone call to parent
 - 9 Restorative Conversations + Phone call to parents.
 - 1 Restorative Conversation + Parent Conference
 - 1 Restorative Conversation + Check-in/Check-out

- (2) Level 3 - Restorative Conversation + Student Safety Plan.
- (1) Level 4 - Restorative Conversation + 1 day out of school suspension
- (4) Level 5 - Parent conference + 1 day out of school suspension.
- Students participated in a student assembly day - The Evolution of Ballet, students truly appreciated this experience.
- Assistant Principal is meeting with students after school, providing individual support to students who need an environment to get work completed.
- Our 6th-8th grade Debate season is now completed - our team did phenomenal throughout the year, receiving several 1st place wins!
- Hearing and Vision Screenings took place during March.

Competency D: Empowers and Motivates Families and the Community to Become Engaged.

- Families engage in PTA, PTO, BAC, PAC, parent-teacher conferences and other school related events.
- Newsletters, open-house, report card pick up, family events, robo calls
- Addresses family concerns
- Engages LSC in school governance.

- International Literacy Night was a huge success with over 250 students attending, this number does not include family members who attended with students!
- Student Led Conferences will be piloted during the April Parent-Teacher Conference Day.
- Newsletters continue to be sent using SMORE and paper notifications on events happening in the school.
- Principal and AP have been working with the Edgewater Chamber of Commerce to potentially bring solar panels to the school.
- Coffee with Principal was held on March 4th.
- Small group tours continue to take place, notification letters for magnet school selections will go home to families at the end of March, Peirce will host a larger tour on April 7th for those families looking to enroll at Peirce who were selected from the lottery.
- LSC Elections will be held during Parent-Teacher conferences. We have 7 candidates running for the 6 parent spots, 2 community candidates running for the 2 community spots, 4 teachers running for the 2 teacher spots and 1 non-teaching staff member running.

- LSC Forum will be held on April 7th at 6pm in the auditorium - notification will go home to families and candidates.
- Friends of Peirce hosted another successful fundraiser on February 28th at Marty's Martini Bar.
- The PAC is working on scheduling Spanish Classes for non-Spanish Speakers in the months of May and June.
- Michael & Louise Roper visited Peirce on March 17th to learn more about our arts partners.
- Peirce received a \$500 grant from Kiwanis.
- Principal sends a monthly e-newsletter home to families, works with parent leaders in maintenance of the school website and supports the dissemination of information to the school and PSO Facebook sites.
- Principal works to have a 24 hour turn around window when responding to parent and family inquiries.

Competency E: Relentlessly Pursues Self-Disciplined Thinking and Action.

- Values and accepts diversity
- Builds collaboration between groups
- Responds and resolves concerns related to students, staff, parents and community members.
- Uses ongoing written and oral communication to effectively communicate with different stakeholders about school curriculum, activities, student achievement, and safety.
- Motivates and inspires staff to contribute to success of school.
- Maintains honesty, integrity, and professionalism in carrying out leadership responsibilities.

- Principal and Assistant Principal are working with the Public Education Fund through a Design Process - Working with the [National SAM Innovation Project](#). The goal of the project is to increase time that admin spend supporting instruction while decreasing managerial tasks.
- Principal hosted a Coffee with Principal and Admin Team.
- Principal will meet with committee chairs for the 3rd meeting on April 6th.
- Principal and Assistant Principal attend monthly network meetings.
- Principal maintains an anonymous suggestion box on the school website.
- Principal works with Assistant Principal, teachers and parent group leaders to disseminate information - robo calls, emails, website, backpack mail and social media are current tools of communication around activities.
- Principal encourages staff to give each other “shout outs” in our weekly staff bulletin.
- Principal takes staff, parent and student confidentiality seriously - works to maintain a positive relationship with all stakeholders.

Budget Transfer

None for the month of March