

Title I Parent Advisory Council

10/21/2021

Agenda for Zoom Meeting

Welcome and Introduction

Members in attendance:

Danielle Gaither-Title 1 Literacy Coach

Vikki Brinkley-Title 1 Literacy Coach

Teresa Kagley-T1 Compliance Specialist

Ana De la Garza-Interpreter

Keisha Huskins-North Buncombe Elem.

Maria Jimenez-Sand Hill-Venable Elem.

Amy Hurwitz-Koontz Intermediate

Evelia Bernal-Estes Elem.

Lauren Ward-Weaverville Primary

Jennifer Clayton-Candler Elem.

Haley Stamey-Leicester Elem.

Adam McNamee-Woodfin Elem.

Andrea Alvaro-Koontz Intermediate

Becki King-Enka Intermediate

Tiffany Frankley-North Windy Ridge
Intermediate

Marissa Kent-White-Hominy Valley Elem.

Stacie Pedersen-Eblen Intermediate

Katie Douglas-Haw Creek Elem.

Lizzie Draper-Koontz Intermediate

Laura Whitson-Pisgah Elem.

Dylan Mandeville-Hominy Valley Elem.

Amanda Mandeville-Hominy Valley Elem.

Caitlin McElroy-Avery's Creek Elem.

Jerad Crave-Estes Elem.

Jenny Herman-Fairview Elem.

Ben Brandenburg-Williams Elem.

Heather Hill-Pavone-Bell Elem.

Jen Miller-Weaverville Primary

Kristin Wooton-Weaverville Elem.

Pearl Shirley-Williams Elem.

Kate Sonoskus-West Buncombe/Eblen

Lindsay Parker-Bell Elem.

Stephany Davis-Enka Intermediate

Krista Gamble-Haw Creek Elem.

Brandi Herron-North Buncombe Elem.

Dawn Chitwood-North Windy Ridge

Dane Pedersen-West Buncombe Elem.

Approval of April 2021 Minutes- April 2021 PAC minutes were approved

Celebrations from/about your School

- North Windy Ridge/North Buncombe Middle- family night was outside "tailgate" style with tables, corn hole games, snacks, etc.
- Weaverville Elementary-Fun Run had great community support. Their \$30,000 goal was almost doubled! Great turnout for volunteer orientation at both Weaverville Primary & Weaverville Elementary.
- Candler - in person open house and book fair was great
- Leicester - Outdoor Movie Night is tomorrow. The movie's free but they've raised some money by pre-selling concessions, 50/50 drawing, etc.
- Bell-hosting a "Bell Trade" clothing swap for all families but making sure children in the most need "shop" first and foremost in a discreet way.

- Fairview-had their first in person event since Spring 2020...an ice cream social at Hilltop Ice Cream. It was a well-attended, outside event and all parents & students loved reconnecting. Their Boosterthon Fun Run fundraiser is underway and they've achieved 73% of their goal. The Fun Run is next week.
- Haw Creek - They had a successful PTA Fall Pumpkin/Gourd/Mum sale that will go to support their teacher allocations. Teachers have given books away & sent Ready Rosie to all parents. Their library remodel is almost complete.
- Hominy Valley - Literacy night is coming up. They're doing a week-long scavenger hunt for students and one of the scavenger hunt clues will come from their virtual literacy night meeting (in a creative attempt to get their virtual literacy night numbers up). Next week is "Bookoween" where students get to dress up as their favorite book character. This event is also a fundraiser for Eblen Charities and students are asked to bring \$1 to donate if they dress up. Hominy Valley's focus on reading has really helped students improve their reading.
- Pisgah - had the highest earnings they've ever had from their Book Fair.

Remainder of Title 1 PAC meetings for 21/22 Zoom or in-person? - Danielle explained that in person meetings would be 1-2 people per table socially distanced and wearing masks. The majority prefer Zoom so our January 27, 2022 meeting will be Zoom. Teresa will cancel meeting room at Central Office.

Buncombe County Schools Title I Family Engagement Policy - Vikki reviewed policy and how family engagement events will teach parents something about helping their students.

Buncombe County Schools Title I Program

- Goals - each school will base their goals on students and their academic standards. Title 1 is schoolwide (which means Title 1 funds are used to help any student who needs extra support) and can be used for classroom teacher supplies, etc.
- District Wide Curriculum Adoption - Wit & Wisdom is new for K-6 and was purchased with federal COVID relief funds. Manuals are available for all teachers & teachers are receiving training and support. All grades are divided into 4 modules and teachers are implementing this program to fidelity thus giving students the knowledge and instruction they need. Wit & Wisdom gives all students equitable access to strong, complex text and instruction. (PAC members commented that this program is culturally responsive & documents sent home help parents have conversations with their children about specific things they've learned at school.) Wit & Wisdom helps struggling readers by giving teachers materials to help with specific skills in small groups after teaching grade level material to the entire class. Title 1 teachers use Wit & Wisdom to help students who need further support. (Teresa will email documents with Wit & Wisdom essential questions to all PAC members in both English and Spanish after today's meeting.) PAC members asked about getting Wit & Wisdom tips for parents. Danielle suggested emailing their child's teacher to ask for daily questions and tips. Wit &

Wisdom focuses on reading and writing. Students have writing books that they write in every day.

-parent asked about having a conference with their child's Title 1 teacher. Danielle encouraged parents to ask their child's teacher for contact information for their Title 1 teacher. Our Title 1 teachers would love to meet with parents.

- **Foundations & Heggerty** - Foundations is our phonics program which pairs perfectly with Wit & Wisdom. Buncombe County Schools have taught Foundations for years.
-Heggerty is the phonemic awareness (sound awareness) program that comes before Foundations. This is taught to students without student books because it's all about sounds.
- **Ready Rosie** - This is a family engagement program available in English & Spanish. Ready Rosie sends 3 videos per week (none over 2 minutes) that will come via text or email. These videos give parents ways to engage their children at home, in the car, in the store, etc. These videos help parents guide their children with academics and social/emotional/behavioral situations. Parents can search Ready Rosie for videos on a wide variety of topics.
- **Book Mobile** - This year we have a new, improved Book Mobile with funds from Buncombe County Foundation! Title 1 funds our driver and assistant for the Book Mobile. They visit community sites, Head Start sites, and many others offering children an opportunity to check out books. They serve preschool children during the school year and school age children during the summer.
- **Curriculum & Literacy Coaches** - Title 1 funds a curriculum & literacy coach for all Title 1 schools. They provide support and training for teachers.
- **mClass testing** - This is mandatory statewide testing that is given 3 times a year. It's a little more advanced than in the past and will be helpful in guiding our instruction.
- **Geodes** - These are decodable (readable) texts that go along with Foundation lessons students are learning. Students learn a skill in Foundations and can apply the skill as they read the Geodes. Teachers use the Geodes that correspond with their grade level. Title 1 will come in and support struggling readers with texts that correspond with their individual needs. Geodes are rich in content and can be used with higher readers for comprehension.
- If anything is new to you, we encourage you to go to your school and offer to help get this information to other parents in your school.

Looking Ahead: How can Title I Improve Services

Questions Feedback & Concerns (all from Jamboard & chat that PAC members shared)

- I know last year we had a presentation at the end of the year that showed the COVID money that the county was getting and it sounds like BCS spent a lot on the reading programs. Could we get a breakdown of how money has been spent thus far to share with our PTAs?

- This is a 3-year plan that must be approved by the state. BCS hired a World Languages Coordinator and an Equity Coordinator. We also adopted the Wit & Wisdom curriculum. You could contact your school's principal for more information. We're only able to speak about how Title 1 funds are spent.
- Would love ways for all parents to see the sort of sample lesson Danielle just did for us. Could she or a teacher record a video with a few kids using this new curriculum to show at Title 1 night?
- What can we do as PAC representatives to support our school and teachers after this meeting?
 - Ideas shared by Danielle & Vikki: ask your teachers; donate supplies; donate your time to help cut out, print, etc.; give them gift cards, food, etc.; extend them grace as they're learning new programs that were implemented
- What specifically can we do to support our Title 1 teachers?
- Can Title 1 funds be used on Spanish reading materials for Dual Language or is it only for English?
- If we are a parent of an older grade student, how can we know and understand how this information is being shared with the families of younger grade students?
- I know our teachers are so busy, so I hate to bother them with this, but I would love more ways to apply everything we learned today at home. For instance, more info on applying Wit & Wisdom, Foundations & Geodes.
- I feel like we need to always look at better ways to communicate between staff and parents/guardians.
- It would be great to see the reading pedagogy and strategies for grades K-5.
- I would love to see dyslexia/dysgraphia more specifically discussed and addressed through Title 1, at the school and district level.

Danielle Gaither (danielle.gaither@bcsemail.org) or Vikki Brinkley (vikki.brinkley@bcsemail.org) are available if you have questions.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 am

Next meeting: Thursday-January 27, 2022 from 9:00-11:00 am (via Zoom)