

WICKENBURG UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 9
BOARD STUDY SESSION MINUTES - February 9, 2017

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Joe Maglio, President, Ms. Amy Brown, Member, Ms. Sandee Gill, Member, Ms. Susan Webster, Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Howard Carlson, Lynn Greene, Erin Johnson, Jennifer Lougee, Matt Johnson, Randy Hodges, Julie Case, Jennie Zimmerman, Carissa Hershkowitz

Items for Discussion: The Vulture Peak Middle School Improvement Plan

The Study Session began at 6:07 PM.

Ms. Jennifer Lougee, Principal, Mr. Matt Johnson and Ms. Jennie Zimmerman presented the Vulture Peak Middle School Improvement Plan.

The Vulture Peak Middle School Improvement Plan includes strategies for improvement in four key areas of School Culture, Curriculum/Academics, Parent/Community Involvement and Professional Development and Leadership Capacity Building. These four key areas are identified in the District Strategic Portfolio and align Vulture Peak Middle School with the K-8 Roadmap and Title I requirements.

Strategies for improvement will be written based on data from a variety of sources, including assessment scores, demographic data, grades, discipline data and input from staff, students and parents. Strategies will include research-based effective school practices wherever possible.

Teacher work days will revolve around Vulture Peak teachers gaining more understanding of the Essential Elements of Instruction and all of its instructional components. One on one and small group work will be done with teachers to improve their skills in technology and use of the system in their instructional planning.

Standard #1 – School Culture Goals:

- ❖ Vulture Peak teachers and staff will engage in “The Eagle Way” Positive Behavior Intervention and Support system (PBIS) during the course of the school year as measured by a 50% decrease in behavior referrals.
- ❖ 100% of core teachers at Vulture Peak will adopt two or more of the guidelines and protocols of Standards Based Grading, as measured through weekly walkthroughs and in grade level cohort meetings at the end of semester one.
- ❖ The administration will include an intentional celebration at the beginning or end of every Professional Development session as measured by meeting minutes by the end of the school year.

Mr. Johnson told the Board that administration has high expectations for students and staff. They pass out “Eagle Cash” to students, rewarding good behavior and doing good things. They can use their “Eagle Cash” to get things from the basket in the office.

Ms. Webster asked for an example of a celebration. Mr. Johnson told her it could be small or big and gave an example of a verbal celebration.

Standard #2 – Curriculum/Academics Goals:

- ❖ Teachers will follow the Beyond Textbooks pacing calendar, Eureka Math, EngageNY and their unwrapped documents with 100% fidelity as measured by weekly walkthrough data.
- ❖ Formative assessment data in math classes will increase from an average of 60% mastery to 80% mastery by the end of the school year.
- ❖ ELA teachers will uphold 100% fidelity to the EngageNY curriculum as measured by a 25% increase in Galileo scores by the end of the school year.
- ❖ On a quarterly basis, 100% of the specials teachers will create a pacing calendar for the upcoming quarter to promote consistency between all school sites in the Wickenburg Unified School District.

Dr. Carlson asked how much more writing was taking place with Engage NY as compared to a year ago. Ms. Zimmerman told him approximately 60% more. She commented she does structured notes in her 8th grade class. Students actually have to formulate their opinion and ideas and write a summary. They also focus on one larger writing assignment each quarter.

Ms. Lougee commented they are putting more focus on writing and all staff are putting effort into that.

Standard #3 – Parent and Community Involvement Goals:

- ❖ 6th grade math and ELA teachers will hold Academic Parent Teacher Teams (APPT) twice per year in order to increase parent comprehension of grade level data and expectations by 25%, thus working toward empowering parents to own student data and how to help their student in content area. APPT meetings with teachers and parents and academic parent teacher teams are being utilized.

Ms. Gill asked if the meetings consisted of all parents in one room or if there was a one on one with parent and teacher. Ms. Lougee told her it is all parents in one room and each parent has their individual child's data in front of them. She also stated this does not eliminate teacher conferences with the opportunity for one on one with the teacher after the meeting. The first meeting had approximately 15 parents in attendance; the second meeting had approximately 28 parents. Ms. Webster asked how many students. Ms. Lougee told her 20%.

- ❖ Vulture Peak will increase weekly, monthly and quarterly communication with parents as measured by an increase of positive survey feedback by 10%.

Standard #4 – Professional Development and Leadership Capacity Building Goals:

- 100% of teachers will identify one measureable growth goal for targeted students within the Results Driven Accountability system as measured by the Teacher Evaluation instrument.
- 100% of specials teachers will participate in independent studies and create goals for professional development as measured by meeting minutes and the Teacher Evaluation Instrument.

Mr. Maglio expressed his appreciation for a job well done.

The Study Session ended at 6:25 PM.

ATTEST: _____

Mr. Joe Maglio, Board President