

# ***District Leadership Team (DLT)***

## ***Meeting Minutes***

Thursday, October 2, 2008

### **I. Call to order**

**Joyce Jackson** called to order the regular meeting of the District Leadership Team at 6:35 P.M. on **Thursday, October 1, 2009** in Dolton School District 148 District Office.

### **II. Introductions & Welcome**

Mrs. Jackson opened the meeting by welcoming each member of the team to a new year. Mrs. Jackson told the group that DLT was a collaboration of minds all working together for the good and improvement of the students in District 148. Mrs. Jackson then asked each member to introduce themselves and state what school they were from.

### **III. “Aspiring Minds” Before and After School Program (RE Pilot)**

Kim Thurmon, Business Manager for “Aspiring Minds” presented their before and afterschool program for children ranging from grades K-8. Ms. Thurmon explained that this program is available to the district at no cost. The program provides assistance with homework, ISAT skill building, and lots of fun activities. Ms. Thurmon went on to explain that they currently have a campus in Calumet City. Students accepted to the program are dropped off in the morning by parents, and picked up by parents after school. Ms. Thurmon explained that the program is funded through Child Care Initiative and that parents who do not qualify for the program are charged a small fee, based on income. The program is open from approximately 6:30 – 7:00 a.m. in the morning until school begins, and then resumes from 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. when parents are required to pick students up. It was recommended that Roosevelt Elementary pilot the program this year and its success will be reviewed over the course of the year.

### **IV. Smart Board Presentation by Lincoln Junior High Science Teachers**

Ms. Erin Moore, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher from Lincoln Jr. High and Mr. Tom Farmer, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher from Lincoln Jr. High presented how they have begun to utilize the Smart Board installed in their classrooms. Ms. Moore stated that since she received her Smart Board last year, she has gone from watching students who are bored in the classroom to students who are sitting on the edge of their chairs in anticipation of what they will see next. Ms. Moore also stated that the Smart Board has allowed her to explore all avenues of the topic that she is teaching and to allow students to see and follow up on questions they may have regarding the topic.

## V. Policy Updates

Mrs. Jackson asked if there were any questions or discussion regarding the new Policy Updates included in each team member's packages. There were no questions. Ms. Jackson informed the other Board members that they would have further discussion at the next upcoming policy meeting.

## VI. Data Driven Building Plans of Success

Each building principal was asked to present a short summary of activities planned in their building for the upcoming school year to drive student success.

**Washington School** – Ms. Joy Chase stated that Washington staff had reviewed all data and was in the process of developing an interactive data wall. Ms. Chase informed the team that Washington Jr. High had partnered with Thornton Township to provide a Junior High Afterschool Program which would provide interventions based on identified student deficiencies. She also stated that the SFA Facilitators would provide interventions based on ISAT skill specific deficiencies as determined from data analyzed on the Illinois Interactive Report Card website. Other programs being implemented at Washington School include, Response to Intervention, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Afterschool Programming, Grade Level Meetings and the use of various supplemental materials designed to improve student achievement.

**Franklin School** – Ms. Lisa Davis-Smith listed several programs that will be implemented at Franklin School this year. Franklin too will have Response to Intervention, which will provide intervention strategies to those students who have been identified as being below grade level on the AimsWeb testing. These interventions will be carried out by teachers as well as various staff members in the building. In addition, Franklin will continue with the reading program Success for All, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Afterschool Programming, Grade Level Meetings and the use of various supplemental materials such as ISAT Coaches and Measure Up books to improve students test taking skills.

**Roosevelt Elementary** – Ms. Dot Weathersby presented that all students had been tested and identified in their appropriate Tiers, based on the AimsWeb testing. Teachers and various staff members in the building would be implementing the intervention strategies to students based on their specific needs. Ms. Weathersby went on to report that teachers were working hard to provide interventions to students identified with deficiencies based on ISAT, EdPerformance and SRI data. She expressed a need for teachers to have Professional Development in the area of writing. Ms. Weathersby concluded with informing the group that Ms. McMillian, the SFA Facilitator, would be working with teachers on utilizing scientific based research strategies across the curriculum. Teachers at Roosevelt Elementary are also engaged in weekly grade level meetings, and are utilizing supplemental materials such as ISAT Coach, and Measure Up to improve student's test taking skills. Roosevelt Elementary also has the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Afterschool Program.

**Park School** – Dr. Dell McFarlane agreed with the presentation prior to hers, and explained that her building was doing many of the same things. Dr. McFarlane went on to say that they have begun to target those students who have been identified using AimsWeb for deficiencies, as well as those students who are testing above grade level. Teachers continue to use Reading First strategies at the primary level and Success For All and Positive Behavior Intervention Systems is utilized throughout the building. Teachers continue to hold high expectations for themselves, and participate in professional learning communities and collaboration across grade levels. Park school also offers the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Afterschool Program to its students.

**Riverdale School** – Dr. Conroy explained that Riverdale is using a scaffolding approach to preparing students for Reading and Math written responses on the ISAT. Students begin learning to write extended responses in Kindergarten and gradually become more independent in the higher grades. Riverdale started using the program Success for All this year, and though it has been a rocky start, they have finally received all material and are on their way. Riverdale received four resident teachers to assist in the classroom with making small groups, and to help provide interventions to those students who have been identified as needing assistance through AimsWeb testing. Dr. Conroy also stated that she held a parent meeting that morning, and that many parents were in attendance and expressed interest in volunteering to tutor students before and after school. Riverdale is currently looking into an after-school program.

**Harriet Tubman** – Ms. Kathie McHenry presented the improvement plan for Harriet Tubman School. Ms. McHenry stated that Harriet Tubman will continue with its 90 minute uninterrupted reading block with support personnel at every grade level to enhance opportunity for small group instruction. She also stated that Harriet Tubman will be looking at the Success for All comprehensive school reform model this year. In addition to the 90 minute reading block, Harriet Tubman has completed their AimsWeb testing, and began their Response to Intervention strategies. Harriet Tubman has also re-structured their use of media center time to allow for small groups of students to work on the A+ Learning program. Teacher collaboration, professional development, parent nights and modeling of good research based strategies will also be ongoing initiatives at Harriet Tubman School.

**Roosevelt Junior High** – Ms. Shalonda Randle stated that Roosevelt Junior High would continue to use the RAMS Program. She stated that they have continued to have good success with this program, which provides for a 40 minute reading block where teachers co-teach for student success. Teachers are also meeting in subject area meetings every other Friday, and at weekly staff meetings. All testing has been completed, and the Illinois Interactive Report Card data reviewed. Students in the seventh grade, participate in a seventh period advisory which provides them with strategies to deal with things like CyberBullying, Etiquette, and the Judicial system. Roosevelt Junior High also offers the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Afterschool Program and has Saturday sessions which have become very popular with the students. Ms. Randle finished by saying that Roosevelt Junior High would be looking at the incentive piece of the Positive Behavior Intervention Systems Program in preparation of implementation next year.

**Lincoln Avenue School** – Mr. Michael Winston stated that his building is implementing many of the same strategies as the other buildings in the district. Mr. Winston stated that he does not hold a lot of meetings with his staff, because he allows other staff member to meet for specific program meetings, such as Success for All, Response to Intervention, Positive Behavior Intervention Systems to name a few. He also stated that teachers and staff members are continuing to meet to interpret data provided through AimsWeb testing. Lincoln Ave. School provides the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Afterschool Program to all its students.

**VII. Miscellaneous**

Mrs. Marks presented each member of the team with a copy of the new Response to Intervention parent brochure which will be going out soon.

**VIII. Upcoming DLT Meetings**

January 21, 2010

April 22, 2010

**The meeting was adjourned by Mrs. Jackson at 7:31 P.M**

Minutes submitted by: Cynthia Marks

Minutes approved by: