

# Gallatin County Schools

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Tony Jury, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Report of August 20, 2019, Gallatin County Board of Education Meeting

1. Back to school professional learning for all staff!
  - a. District administration staff participated in a district retreat on July 17th. Last year we did a book study of *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team*, by Patrick Lencioni. We began the day by reviewing what we learned from that study and how it helped us during the past year. We then moved into a new study of *Lincoln on Leadership*, by Donald T. Phillips. Each school chose a section of the book and presented to the group. There was a lot of rich discussion about leadership and how we can follow President Lincoln's example. At the end of the day we concluded the retreat by showing a video of the "Relentless Principal" Hammish Brewer. His vision is to put love back in the schools. The admin team liked it so much they asked if we could present the video on opening day.
  - b. We have held two Team 1 instructional meetings. July 22nd and August 20th. In these meetings we focus solely on instructional matters. We are learning the PDSA systems approach for continuous improvement. Our first two district wide goals cover attendance and high yield instructional strategies.
  - c. Bus drivers participated in 3 hours of Bounce training on July 31, 2019. The drivers had positive things to say after the training. During the training the facilitators presented how trauma can affect our students and how they can become the positive adult in a child's life that makes a difference. After a period of presentation scenarios were introduced and groups worked together to develop a response for each scenario. The transportation staff did an amazing job and I believe they feel empowered to help our students.
  - d. 8/05 New Teacher Orientation. We brought in 13 new certified teachers this year. That's an improvement from last year's 30! We organized an orientation for the new teachers that included a tour of all the schools, a road tour of the county on a school bus, lunch and presentations at the local public library and we finished the day in Central Office going through human resource information with

them. We concluded the day by sharing my experiences of the first day of school and how important it is to establish procedures and expectations. That first two weeks of class set the tone for the rest of the year. We provided a list of possible procedures for them to nail down before the first day of school. The teachers seemed to enjoy the day and provided positive feedback.

- e. August 6 & 7, iReady Training. The district is switching from MAP to iReady for our interim diagnostic assessments. iReady is an adaptive diagnostic and prescriptive as it provides lesson plans for individual and groups of students based on need. Every student is provided with online instruction based on how they performed on the diagnostic. The lessons progress as the student learns. Teachers have online dashboards that give real time data about each student. The trainer was outstanding. He provided his cell number and has been a big help in getting us up and running. The teaching staff seemed to be excited.
  - f. August 12, High Yield Instructional Strategies Training - District wide: All school certified staff participated in a classroom discussion professional learning. High yield evidence based instructional strategies are proven to be effective in all learning environments. Rule, suburban, urban, poor, diverse, heavily EL, affluent - doesn't matter, evidenced based strategies have proven to work. We are in the process of refining our strategies, learning about how they need to be implemented, monitoring implementation and collecting data. We started with classroom discussion and will move to reciprocal teaching.
  - g. August 13, Bounce Training for all HS & MS staff - This was a very unique training. All certified and classified staff participated together. There were 95+ people in the MS library for the training. We learned that there are only two types of staff, teaching staff and those the support teaching. Dr. Barjoine also challenged us to realize that we all must be healers in some aspects. The amount of toxic stress and trauma our students are dealing with on a daily basis is alarming. Our staff was very positive and actively participated in the training activities.
- 2. CERT will be used at the HS and MS this year as the interim diagnostic assessments. In addition, both schools will also be using ALEKS to offer math intervention. CERT is new for the MS, but not for Ms. Biddle. ALEKS is new to both schools. We are learning as we go. We discovered many turn around districts are using ALEKS with success.
  - 3. Health Science program at GCHS: The HS SBDM approved the option of converting the current business position into a health science position. The HS interviewed and offered a contract to a health science teacher that is currently teaching at the ATC. Once we began building rosters and transferring students we realized that all current students will lose their dual credit opportunities because GC does not have an MOU with JCTC. The current MNA students would be in jeopardy of not finishing their certification as well.

Therefore, we approached the teacher and the ATC with a plan for having the teacher considered a satellite teacher. The position would remain a part of the ATC but the location would move to GCHS. The HS admin team and the ATC principal worked out a proposal that included the teacher starting the day at GCHS and then traveling to the ATC in the afternoon to finish the day with MNA students. This proposal was not approved by OCTE because this type of decision must go through the ATC steering committee. Therefore, the teacher declined our offer because she did not want the students to lose in this deal. However, we plan to pursue the satellite program idea. We need a GC BoE representative to attend the ATC steering committee meeting along with the superintendent, DPP and HS admin team. If approved by this committee and the OCTE then we can begin building a health science lab in anticipation of moving the program next school year.

4. 2019 student achievement data: Be prepared for some sticker shock when we see our results. I have not quantified the data so we really don't have a reliable prediction. However, last year was a rebuilding year as we had new people in admin and in the classrooms. We spent the year planning what has unfolded over the summer and the first week of school. I believe we will begin seeing great gains as we move into this year. I'm excited about what we are doing. Therefore, we have a new and different plan implemented and are ahead of where we were last year.

Sincerely,

Tony Jury

Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment