

Parent Advisory Meeting Notes
April 5, 2018

The Parent Advisory meeting was held on April 5, 2018, with 16 parent representatives in attendance.

Esperanza McCrary, Parent Engagement Specialist, welcomed the group to the Parent Advisory meeting. Esperanza asked the parents to complete a questionnaire to help improve the parent advisory meetings. We want to make sure parents are getting valuable information from the meetings.

Dr. Mary Gist, Director of Middle Schools

Dr. Gist presented information regarding social/emotional learning programs. She gave a brief overview of what the program will look like and explained the purpose.

[Social Emotional Learning PowerPoint](#)

Next year there will be an electronic referral system. This system will allow us to analyze data and know what types of problems are trending. School counselors at the middle and high school level help with assessment, in addition to counseling. Beginning next year, counselors will spend 80% of their time counseling. Only 20% of their time will be spent on logistical items, such as assessment. Mental health issues have dramatically increased across the country. We are reshaping the work and adding more staff to support our students.

Questions:

How deep do you plan on going in addressing social/emotional problems with students, i.e. grief, divorce, eating disorders?

We have been dealing with those issues for years. There are specific things we do not expect teachers to address. In that case, school counselors work with students. If it is something the counselor is not equipped to deal with, we have behavior specialists.

How do you decide how to allocate resources to this type of program?

New standards are helping support this program. Also, with student growth comes increased funding. We are not losing people, we are gaining people.

Dr. Impeartrice, Spanish Immersion/Diversity Grant/New Programs Next Year

The program has filled up and we have students on a waiting list. A team of instruction faculty are going to Michigan for training on the curriculum.

CMCSS Human resource Department received a diversity grant. The focus is to hire more faculty and staff that reflect our student population. We hire teachers all over the place, but we are competing with everyone else. There are less diverse people in the education field. There is a concept referred to as "Grow Your Own". This program focuses on people already working for the district who may want to become teachers and have an associates degree but cannot afford to go back to school or quit working. The district has partnered with Nashville Teacher Residents.

Right now, we have 20 people employed by CMCSS who will be participating in the program to become a middle or high school ELA or math teacher. It is not the traditional route. It is an educator preparation program. Participants continue to work while completing the program. There is no cost to the employee until the second semester of teaching for CMCSS, at which time they will pay \$5000 for the entire program. 75% of the employees who are signed up to participate are diverse. We are calling the program Clarksville Teaching Fellows. More information is available on the CMCSS website: <http://www.cmcss.net/news/?id=820>

The next step is figuring out how to recruit our students to become teachers for our district. There is a program out of Colorado called Pathways to Teaching for students to become teachers. We are studying this program right now.

We have a 95.5% graduation rate, but 40% go straight into the workforce. We need to prepare students for appropriate careers, not just college. Next year will be the first year of our partnership with TCAT and Nashville State. The students attending these programs will graduate with certifications. Middle College will be offering a second path, which will lead to students earning their associates degree in conjunction with their high school diploma.

The meeting notes from each meeting are posted on the CMCSS website under the “Students and Parents” tab.

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