

Milltown School District

STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN UPDATE 10/18

Chairperson: Alyson Nechamkin

Team Members: JoAnne Demetrio, William Veit, Kathy McCarthy, Catia Scotto, Krystyna Herko, Andrea Brunner

Domain: Academic Excellence

Goal 1: Enhance the co-teaching model to further accommodate the needs of students with disabilities in general education classes.

Objective: Monitor and analyze inclusion programming at Parkview and Joyce Kilmer and assess budgetary implications for the maintenance and expansion of the model.

Objective: Plan and implement professional development associated with inclusive education models within the district.

Summary of accomplishments as of October 2018:

- Dr. Chelsea Tracy Bronson continues to consult with staff in Milltown School District during the 2018-2019 school year.
- Goalbook was purchased for a 2nd year, which is an electronic resource assisting with differentiation and including various learners in general education classes
- Common planning time was scheduled for co-teachers
- Co-teachers without common planning time are being compensated one hour per month for common planning, before or after school. This hour can be divided throughout the month, as the teachers feel best for their needs.
- Part time Social Worker was hired for the 2018-2019 school year.
- A BCBA from Brett DiNovi and Associates will be starting to consult in a preschool class during November 2018.
- A parent meeting was held to attempt to start at Special Education Parent Advisory Group (SEPAG).
- Information related to SEPAG was put on the district website.

Action Plan:

- Continue providing professional development for staff related to inclusive education and co-teaching
- An RBT from Brett DiNovi and Associates is being requested to work with staff in Joyce Kilmer related to behavioral supports.
- Dr. Brown will be posting information about SEPAG on the district's Facebook page.
- A survey will be sent to parents of students with IEPs with questions related to a parent group.
- Ongoing attempts will continue to be made to recruit parents to be leaders and participants of the SEPAG.

Goal 2: Examine and explore the data surrounding homework, grading, and summer programs and the impact on the academic mindset.

Objective: Take inventory of current practices regarding homework, grades, and summer programs and make recommendations to modify these practices in order to enhance intrinsic motivation within students.

Summary of accomplishments as of October 2018:

- A pilot program was set up for students entering 5th grade. They chose from a variety of summer activities, reinforcing learning and helping to prevent significant summer slide.
- Two celebrations for students who completed work during the summer months (July and August) took place.
- A meeting was held with the strategic planning committee to review the summer activities and celebrations.

Action Plan:

- Create surveys for parents and students regarding the summer projects
- When expanding the summer project, include more social emotional requirements (ex: partner activities)
- Gather the number of students who attended summer camp during the past few summers, to help determine if the committee wants to recommend alternatives (ex: teachers to be available to assist with the new summer projects verse a teaching a summer camp)
- Seek information about the 7th and 8th grade math summer project to see if this can be included in the summer work expectations instead of packets, seeing how it can be differentiated for various learners
- Brainstorm alternative motivators for summer work completion (ex: drop lowest quiz grade, Joyce Kilmer give away, etc.)
- Recommend budgeting for teachers to create additional summer projects for grades 6-8.
- Recommend budgeting for teachers to provide students with summer support while completing summer projects.
- Recommend budgeting for teachers to review summer projects.
- Before the next meeting, gather information about general homework and if the packets are aligned to the current week's assignments or aligned to the previous week (as review)
- Look into having a committee of teachers from various content areas to create cross curricular summer activities (ex: budgeting for an international vacation, looking for local landmarks/activities, etc.).
- Recommend budgeting for teachers to be on the cross curricular summer project committee.
- Speak to Mr. Siegel to see if he has grade level teachers who want to volunteer (as a grade level) to consider piloting a homework program with more projects, less worksheets.