

Title I Advisory Council
Minutes for the Monday, August 20, 2018
Nims Middle School – media center

Members and contributors present: Genefer Rollins, Nikki Bradley, Bridgett Birmingham, Marie-Claire Leman, Jacqueline Scott, Carmen Conner, Anicia Robinson, Lacacia François, Cheryl Collier-Brown, Dana Wiley, Carolyn Hector Hall, Allison Stachnik, Rebecca Johnson, Davina Young, Anita M. Whitby-Davis, Scott Mazur, Paula Pearcey, Jonathan Wilson, Shari Gewanter, Michele Prescott, Kelvin Norton, Desmond Cole, Rusty Edwards, Charles Williams, Robert Conners, Maria McIntyre, Courtney Atkins, Stephanie Savestanan, Mary Jo Peltier, Joi N. Phillips, Ashley Scott, Ava Williams, Giselle Marsh, Taita Scott, Tina Austin, Gloria Smith, Victoria Williams, Sharlene Jones, Judith Ogbonna, Grace Frances, Brenda Scott, Randall Austin, Jasmine Smith, Patrick Wright, Travis Lewis, Amber Mitchell, Scott Hansen, Stacy Ball, Champayne Ricciardi.

Purpose of TAC and way of work

The TAC was created to be a voice for disenfranchised schools and school communities and to be a resource to our school board and district as they work to give the attention and resources needed in Title I schools. Our role is to make recommendations to the school board. The school board is very eager to hear from the TAC and very much appreciated the presentation that was given last March by 9 TAC members.

The TAC also works to strengthen our ties as a community. We come from a variety of perspectives and positions but at the TAC we are able to speak frankly, work collaboratively, trusting that the only gain we each seek is for a better school environment for all Title I school students.

The composition of the membership was explained. Members introduced themselves. One change to membership this year is that we will have Student representatives from Rickards and Godby instead of having a student representative from the Student District Advisory Council.

Every meeting will consist of some standing items such as a spotlight on the school hosting the meeting. Task forces will regroup for 30 to 45 minutes at every meeting to advance their work. Each Task Force will have a working document stored on Google Docs and one member from each Task Force will update this document after every meeting. The goal is to have up-to-date snapshots of every Task Force that can be shared with other members of the TAC and other who might want to know more about our work.

Welcome word from Nims Middle School's Principal Kelvin Norton

Nims was able to cut its referrals by ½ last year. They are ironing out the schedules for students currently. This year they were able to offer more advanced courses and including a new stem-robotics course. They are achieving academic success and getting students ready for High School. (this spotlight was brief because the TAC was hosted by Nims at the last meeting as well and we received a thorough update from Principal Norton at that time)

Welcome and updates from Ms. Ashley Scott, District Title I Coordinator

One of the main priorities this year is training. Principals need to know what they can spend Title I \$\$ on. Ms. Scott meets with them by teleconference (Zoom) to make sure she can meet with them regularly without have the Principals leave their school sites.

Another focus is on measuring the worth and success of our programs. We want to avoid duplicating services and we want to work towards maximize the use of funds. The district is developing an internal handbook for better use of technology and systematic professional development in a “train the trainer” optic.

The district is collaborating with charter schools that also receive Title I funds to make sure that they are provided with the best guidance. The district also works to hold private schools accountable for the Title I funds that they receive.

In order to generate meaningful feedback and involvement by parents, the district will hold focus groups instead of distributing surveys.

The Title I school principals are being very supportive of new initiatives at the District office and everyone is collaborating well.

The Title I district office is hoping that the TAC will identify two main issues that we want the district office to work on.

Election of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary for 2018-19

These were the proposed people for filling the following positions:

Chair: Talethia Edwards

Vice Chair: Marie-Claire Leman

Secretary: Jacqueline Scott

The three propose to work together to ensure that no one person is overburdened by the administrative task of chairing, organizing, and following-up on meetings and the work of the TAC.

Ms. Collier-Brown made a motion to accept the nominated executive committee. The motion was seconded by Ms. Birmingham. No one objected. The motion passed.

Regrouping by Task Forces

Ms. Leman listed the title and focus of each task force. Members regrouped in their task forces or, if they were new, joined the task force that best corresponds to their interests and experience:

1)Best Practices at Title I schools, 2)Resegregation of schools and school choice, 3)Early Childhood Education, 4)Supporting Principals, SACs, PTOs, 5)Partnerships with local providers, the City, the County, 6)Title I Grant, 7)Mental and Physical Health.

The task forces will keep records of their work and these documents will be made available to all members and contributors of the TAC and anyone else, upon request.

Close of meeting