

## DSA School Improvement Team Meeting

April 23, 2014

Attendance: Downing, Carolina, Nagel, Jones, Isaacs, Bailey, Borg, Hawks, Vernon, Spain, Morgan, Martin, Rice, Maya, Payan, Cunny (recorder), Smith

A reminder of the Meeting Norms was given, such as remembering to be Whole-School-Minded.

The agenda was approved with no changes.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

DGIN: Duke Partnership - Doing Good in the Neighborhood: Jenny Carolina, our new DGIN rep, was introduced and welcomed to the team. A DGIN application for support of the DSA summer library hours was presented by Ms. Stacy and Ms. Gugino of the media center. The library will be open during the summer in late July and early August to support students with summer reading assignments, particularly 6<sup>th</sup> graders and ESL students, although the library will be open to all students. Book clubs and art materials for assignments will be included. Discussion centered around hours the library would be open and the need for schedules to work with schedules of students and families. Also, it was pointed out that since no transportation is provided, this will potentially limit participation. Bus tokens were suggested, but this might not be practical for rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders. It was suggested that student volunteers be recruited to help during the summer to create a fun and positive learning atmosphere. The team voted to approve the DGIN request to support summer library hours.

US News and World Report ranking of high schools: The State Dept of Public Instruction accidentally forgot to send information on over 100 NC schools, including DSA, to the magazine. Therefore DSA will not be mentioned this year.

Draft Long Term Plan for DSA was handed out by Mr. Hawks regarding Academic Goals and School Culture Goals. DSA has a culture of success that we must continually nurture and build upon to create a passion for academic and artistic excellence in students. The team broke into small groups to brainstorm strategies and metrics for each goal briefly described below.

Academic Goal 1: create a framework for academic success with progressively higher expectations from grade 6 to grade 12. (Smith, Bailey, Jones)

Academic Goal 2: Formalize a support plan for each Goal 1 expectation including tutoring sessions by all DSA teachers, interventions, consequences. (Nagel, Smith)

School Culture Goal 1: Provide opportunities for student involvement, development and growth through co-curricular and extracurricular activities. (Martin)

School Culture Goal 2: Safe and orderly environment including a culture of respect, tolerance, diversity and personal responsibility.

School Culture Goal 3: Provide a consistent message internally and externally as to what DSA is all about – rigorous academics and excellence in the arts (“marketing plan”) (Downing, Payan, Morgan, Maya)

School Culture Goal 4: Formalize a plan for new student orientation, especially 9<sup>th</sup> graders.

School Culture Goal 5: Increase parent involvement (Isaacs, Borg, Cunny)

Goal 6: Foster community partnerships including alumni

Goal 7: Cultivate and maximize student teaching partnerships.

Results of small group sessions will be emailed to Dr. Nagel who will compile for discussion at the next meeting.

Adjourn at 6:30.