

Newton Elementary
School Organizational Team Minutes
5/13/2025
3:30

The Newton ES School Organizational Team meeting was called to order at 3:30 on 5/13/25. The meeting was held in the library and virtually at <https://meet.google.com/bzw-hhch-tmr>.

Members present:

Kasey O'Horo, Parent
Gina Topor, Parent
Rebecca Hickey, Parent
Kristan Sanchez, Parent

Pulamahaaheo Berg, Licensed Staff
Samantha Olson, Licensed Staff
Meaghan McGowan, Principal
Lindsey Douglas, Support Staff

Members absent:

None

Non-voting members present:

Ms Yelton

Online voting members present:

Robin Anderson, Kerry Leonard, Amy Riggs

1. **Welcome, Roll Call, & Approval of Minutes.** The minutes from the meeting dated 4-8-25 were presented and motioned to be approved "as presented" by Samantha Olsen and Pula Berg seconded the motion.

2. **Old Items**

2.1 **Testing Update**

2.2 **District Wide Survey Results and School Performance Plan**

2.3 **School Events/Updates**

3. **New Items**

3.1 **MAP Testing Update**

Math improvement in MAPS (see chart). Achievements are listed by grade. There was an increase in every grade level. Prior year testing was reviewed as a comparison. Numbers are very similar. How do we compare to other schools in our area? Per Ms McGowan, Newton is middle of the road with testing scores – not low and not getting 5 star ratings. What are 5 star schools doing differently? Per Ms Yelton and Ms McGowan: they use every minute of the teaching day, they supplement the curriculum. Newton is always looking at how to improve. Leader in Me program is rolling out. There are hopes to eliminate some of the screen time and have more hands-on manipulatives for learning.

Reading for MAPS saw a decrease rather than an increase. We talked about if there are known reasons. It's possible kids are burnt out from SBAC testing. The HMH reading program is still newer and needs time to see results as teachers stay consistent. Parents noted there is confusion about how to help at home. The program doesn't have homework. Staff still say reading at home is important. It was suggested to offer parents some generic questions to ask kids after reading to help reinforce comprehension and understanding.

Maps results should go home Monday to parents. They are fairly simple and self explanatory.

3.2 **School Performance Plan Review/Update**

School performance goals – didn't quite meet all the goals for increase in MAPS scores. Do we want to still keep the same goal? Additionally, the adult learning goal was met at 100% for backwards planning

and utilizing assessments and long range planning. New program “Letters” will be used next year (strategies). Cross curricular. It is measurable to show which programs are being used and working. It was suggested that a “self reflection” is used to show what was implemented/what would I change or modify? What worked? Was it used, not just planned? Did we do it? Did we have the time? Why didn’t we have the time, etc? What adjustments do we make this week vs this year? It was voted unanimously to continue with the same goals.

When it comes to connectedness goals, are we looking at connections personally - between staff, students, peers, community, etc? We need to review the panorama survey which was just taken by grades 3-5 for more feedback. Staff voted about trying the 7 habits of successful people – start with staff then roll out to kids.

3.3 End of Year Updates & Reflection

Feedback from families – people like dojo for the most part but would like a calendar. Got 51 replies from families. Still time for people to reply.

A “back to school night” was suggested that would be parents only. This would be different from “Meet the teachers” for kids. It could be in the evening (like middle school and high school). Parents can get info from teachers about expectations, programs, events, cosmo cash, AR, volunteer opportunities, etc. so parents can feel more informed and understanding of how the school year will progress.

Question: Did Hazel Health get cut? Answer: It is not cut. Is there a Measles update? So far, everyone in school is vaccinated or exempt, but we are one of the few areas not having an outbreak, so it may be coming.

4. Information

4.1 Next Meeting: Newton Elementary AUGUST 2025 TBD

5. Public Comment Period (Two (2) minutes maximum allotted) None

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 4:48 by Kasey O’Horo, 2nd by Samantha Olsen.