

# BLT MINUTES

## Thurgood Marshall BLT Minutes

November 17, 2015

**Present (11):** Primary HCC Rep Tara Kohls, Intermediate HCC Rep Kimber Kierstead, Gen Ed Rep Sam Egelhoff, Alex Shaw (for Special Ed Rep Katie Humphreys), SEA Rep Susan Kingsbury, Specialist Rep Anne Lyons, Classified Rep Catherine Nagel, At-Large Parent Trinia Washington, HCC Parent Bill Brewster, Special Ed Parent Noelle Matthias, Asst Principal Sabrina Kovacs-Storlie

**Absent (3):** Gen Ed Parent Angie Jenkins, Principal Katie May, Principal Intern Laurie Kazanjian

### Approval of Minutes

No minutes were approved.

### Norms

Reviewed before meeting

### New Business

-- Continuous School Improvement Plan (CSIP)

1. Background: Every school in WA must have one, and it is a publically-available document. Last one at TM covered 2013-15. Next one will cover 2015-17 – draft submitted last Friday. Could treat as nothing more than required paperwork, but we want it to be a living document and meaningful guide for our work. There are some limitations because you have to start with online template and follow their format.
2. SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-Bound) in 5 Focus Areas. Principals have already drafted text.
3. Task: BLT to look over and give input on draft goals. Particularly: compare CSIP goals with “School-Wide Goals” from BLT binder published in September. How can we use School-Wide Goals to strengthen/reinforce CSIP Goals, and vice versa? Also, make sure CSIP goals include components for engagement with a) families, and b) community partners.
4. Warmup: Consider one example (Math Focus Area) as whole group.
  - Data is Gen Ed SBA scores from spring 2015. Some goals involve ambitious jumps in scores from last spring to this spring. Possible mitigating factors: first year of SBA and lower scores were expected; kids had problems with computer-based infrastructure. But still leaves a significant jump.
  - Comments from group: Gen Ed program has known “peer schools” – those schools have much more intervention support, including paid math tutors. The presence of HCC makes us ineligible for some of this support, but the needs of the Gen Ed classes haven’t changed (much of this ties back to promises that weren’t kept by the district 5 years ago when HCC moved to TM). In general: ambitious goals are good. But do we have the resources to achieve them? And are the proposed interventions enough?
5. Small Groups: Break up to discuss 5 Focus Areas. Pick area you’re most interested in, have at least 2 people in each small group:
  - Mathematics: Tara, Bill
  - Reading/Language Arts: Susan, Anne
  - School Climate: Alex, Catherine, Sam
  - Visual and Performing Arts: Noelle, Sabrina
  - Advanced Learning Opportunities: Trinia, Kimber
6. Report back: some groups did mostly text editing, some groups made suggestions on how to strengthen ideas proposed in draft, some groups brainstormed new ideas for their focus area. In all cases, the whole group heard and discussed changes proposed by the small groups, and notes were passed back to Sabrina for consideration in next draft.

-- Program Name Change(s)

1. General Education (aka Gen Ed): Many members don’t like this name. How can we come up with something that sounds more positive? Suggestions for soliciting input from different constituencies in our community: bring up at staff meeting; reach out to parents (letter sent home, note in PUP Press, online survey as with bell times). Also: ask kids – maybe they should be the ones to rename it?

And/or, we could survey other schools so we might not need to reinvent wheel. What do they call:

- Non-Montessori at Leschi, Graham Hill, etc?
- Non-Spectrum at John Muir, etc?
- Non-Language Immersion at Beacon Hill, etc?
- Non-HCC at Fairmount Park, Washington, Garfield, etc?

2. PEACE Academy: along these lines, Alex pointed out that the name of our Special Education program sounds like a school within a school. She prefers to say she teaches in "Room 106". If we're going to change the name of one program, maybe we should discuss for other programs as well.

### **Next Meeting**

- Next draft of CSIP (hopefully close to final)
- Update and fuller discussion on program name changes
- Discuss SPS African-American Males initiative (formal name?). Sounds like other racial groups gave some pushback – update from Race & Equity team?
- If time allows: parent concerns?
- Tuesday, December 15
- Anne L will be note-taker