

PDS Minutes
April 19, 2017

A meeting was held with select staff and the administration of Oakvale School and Dr. Kathy Hawks. The meeting was to discuss an innovative idea of pioneering multi-level, non-graded classrooms at Oakvale School. The purpose of the meeting was to brainstorm ideas and create next steps for implementation.

The following thoughts were discussed:

- Discuss the best grades to pilot the multi-level, non-graded program
- Discuss how Concord could assist in the new program and how we could work together as partners
- Discuss benefits for all students and preservice teachers

The goals of the program were to:

- Increase student learning for K-1 students for the upcoming year, but to include all grades K-5 eventually
- Provide a supportive learning environment where all students and teachers were targeting specific skills identified by assessment data
- Focused and intentional teaching
- Offer innovative opportunities for pre-service teachers to work with small groups for purposeful and intentional instruction in reading.

Some of the challenges were identified. They included:

- Location of space/classrooms for the program
- Staffing the multi-level, non-graded classrooms
- Scheduling
- Resources

After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that we would schedule another meeting requesting that Dr. Kathy Liptak, Program Coordinator for M.ED. and MAT at Concord University, participate in the next meeting. Dr. Liptak is familiar with this type of multi-level, non-graded classrooms and we felt like she could provide invaluable insights and would be an excellent resource. In the meantime, Mrs. Hodges would conduct more research, survey the faculty of Oakvale about their thoughts on the idea, and make a list of needed resources.

Dr. Hawks will contact Dr. Liptak and schedule a meeting.

Meeting was adjourned.

PDS Minutes
May 18, 2017

On May 18, 2017 a meeting was held with the leadership and select faculty at Oakvale School, Dr. Kathy Liptak, and Dr. Kathy Hawks.

This meeting was a follow-up meeting from the April 19, 2017 meeting.

Mrs. Hodges reviewed the idea for a pilot program for the multi-level, non-graded reading program. Mrs. Hodges reported on the surveys from the teachers and all were eager to pioneer the program. Some teachers had some staffing concerns, and one had questions about scheduling, but all were onboard with the program.

Since Dr. Liptak was instrumental in developing a charter school in Delaware where the classes followed the multi-level, non-graded format, she was asked to share her experiences. Dr. Liptak offered invaluable advice and suggestions on how to move forward with the program. A lengthy discussion occurred where questions were asked and addressed, challenges were presented and solutions weighed, and an implementation plan developed.

Dr. Hawks suggested that some of the staffing concerns could be addressed with the use of Concord's elementary block students and student teachers. Each classroom would have either a block student or student teacher working with the teacher. Some PDS funds were used to purchase organizational supplies.

A timeline for implementation was developed by the group. It was decided that with the assistance of Concord block students and student teachers the program would be implemented in fall 2017. The program would be piloted with K-1 teachers during the upcoming year.

Follow-up communication would occur via email and visits by Dr. Hawks to Oakvale School.

Meeting was adjourned.