

Imagine Foundations Monthly Board Meeting Wednesday, February 23, 2022 Zoom Meeting 5:00 p.m.

# Meeting start time 5:02pm

# **Anthony Pollard - Board Chairman**

Roll Call/Attendance Pledge of Allegiance Board approved Jan 2022 Minutes (Ms. Amelga, Ms. Clark)

# -Reviewed the new agenda format

The agenda today, we'll touch on the charter renewal process, as well as the site visit report. Once we get into the committee updates, we'll have an update from the academic excellence committee, followed by the school leaders report and the regional directors, regional Academic Director report, as well as a regional director's report, then we'll have a financial excellence report out of focus around our economic sustainability. We will have a report specifically from our regional finance team. This is a new addition, but certainly a needed addition to ensure that we have full transparency, then we'll have operational excellence updates, including the facility directors report, followed by parent engagement update, as well as a community development update. We've added a public comment section for parents. If you have any questions, any concerns, you can certainly share those, as we make an effort to improve communications, the agenda will be posted at least 48 hours in advance.

-This public comment section is here where you have the opportunity to send in any questions such that you can make public comments during the meeting. So I wanted to make sure that everyone is aware again, of the effort to evolve and be more inclusive as well as transparent. So that is the agenda. Regarding where we stand, particularly with the continued push to improve our operations, we did have a site visit during the latter part of October November timeframe. Partnering with the charter school office, and an independent evaluator, we spent a great deal of time from the beginning of the school year through the midpoint of the school year. We've received the report and have had a couple of debrief sessions from the report outs. As we continue to put forth the effort to develop our scholars and ensure that their continued growth improves.



-it's important that Morningside understands, as well as our Leland team, that this is a collective effort between not only the leadership at our respective schools and the faculty and teachers. This is a collective effort, with all hands on deck from the regional team as well as the board. We want you all to know specifically from the board that we have an enhanced commitment, and we're renewing our effort to make sure that we are continuing to drive collaboration and increase accountability and be more accountable for our work in helping to deliver the impact necessary to ensure that our scholars continue to grow and we move the operations forward to be able to build and develop our scholars holistically. I wanted to make you all aware that you'll start to see more active engagement from the board individuals on the board during these sessions, as well as online, on the ground at the different schools to ensure that again, we're adding value where possible to help with the collective effort. We have a great deal of work necessary to be done to ensure that we have our schools well positioned to renew our charter. We believe this, there's a lot of work to do. But this clear, there's a clear path for us to again, improve our positioning to ensure that the charters are renewed at our schools.

# Academic Excellence Report - Ms. Amelga

- Very grateful to have the opportunity to join the morning side school leadership team and the Imagine regional team and representatives from the National imagine team for the rise up meeting on February 17, last Thursday. We spent the entire day kind of going through different steps to think through our next action steps to make sure that we are having the impact that we want to have on the students at Morningside and the agenda included reviewing the recommendations from 10 square from that site visit in the fall, and having deep discussions and debates about what are the immediate priorities? What are the long term priorities? What are the appropriate action steps that we have the right supports and resources in place? And what are the opportunities, we have to remove barriers or constraints to make sure we accomplish those things.
- -Rise up team meeting included deep discussion and debates about priorities, right supports and resources in place, robust discussion about what accountability should look like, long and short term goals for student academic growth, walk through observation for success time and

ensuring the program is effective. Grateful for the opportunity to shadow along and offer a perspective.

-Grateful for the leadership of the Imagine team and the school leadership. They know their students inside and out, they know their teachers inside and out. They know the curriculum and



pedagogy inside and out. Also bringing all those things together to make sure that we're moving students in the direction we want to move them in is exciting and challenging. And I'm looking forward to meeting with them again next month for a continuation of the discussion.

## Leeland School Report - Ms. Williams, Principal

Plan of Action under SEP, SPP academic monitoring and character development -first goal include attendance Dec 96% overall, did have a decrease in Jan in specific grade levels that are not at 97% in attendance.

-under our SEP as well as our SPP that encompasses our academic monitoring as well as our character, our focus areas of being, of course in math, reading, language, arts, attendance and character. Really looks at those goals as it relates to our improvement, again, aligned directly with our SPP, that really focuses on one, the behaviors of the adults in our building and how it impacts student's abilities to perform in both math and reading, behavior and character. - attendance being most impactful for student improvement and engagement. So just looking at our first goal is looking at our attendance, our attendance data at a snapshot for December and January, December, we ended up 96%. Overall, we did have a decrease in January, some areas in grades, definitely needing some additional support. I'll talk about what those next steps are.

-as a school, that Leland we definitely play really close attention to any of those grade levels that are, you know, not at a 97% or higher, our focus areas, looking closely into our second grade scholars, our kindergarten, as well as our seventh grade as being grades as well as eighth grades that really need some attention as relates to our attendance. This has been a focal piece as it relates to our teacher collaborative planning sessions, and really looking at the teacher side of taking attendance.

-Grades that need attention - K, 2,7,8. Concerns included during virtual school identified 2nd grade had a hard time logging onto virtual school. Impact also included quarantine of school

staff during the month of Jan. Submission of work, documentation by teachers and attendance is crucial to maintain accurate records

- -1st Q attendance, awards were received, gift cards for students and dance will happen this week
- -Jan engaged in Winter STAR assessment, combination of
- -above and on grade level stayed the same, normally during testing push time math can become more challenging.
- -Our midterm star data took place in November, and then this winter would be our January. some of the highlights that you will see in our math areas between our first and fifth grades, you'll see that it's a range between 1.0 gains 1.04 gains and 1.06 gains and just noting that our gain in our goal for the entire year is a 1.01 so very excited that our first and fifth grades teams are definitely will be on that goal of which we set at the start of the year as it relates to our



student growth, it's a combination of our niche market advanced students. Proficiency level for one watch students would be those students who are kind of on the cusp of moving over to being on that proficient side, and then you'll see our urgent intervention.

- -We've noticed that in prior testing periods that normally this November to January is really that heavy push time to continue to move scholars as it relates to that content that becomes more difficult in mathematics
- -our overall gain on that midterm, we were at 1.032, we did have a slight decrease of our learning gain, we're still above one, we're at that goal for the year, but definitely ensuring that we continue to grow. And then you see also there was a slight decrease as it relates to our proficient students, and above grade level.
- -Our first and sixth grades had an increase in learning gain from our midterm to winter
- -Second grade and third grade stayed pretty consistent as it relates to where their performance was for our goal for this year, we ended the school year at 1.02 last school year with a 1.03. those grades between that first and third grade band have met that goal.
- -knowing that we're, we definitely have the next month's before April's administration of assessment to ensure that our students continue to grow.
- -Some areas of concern we do see again, within our fifth through eighth grade bands. Much of the conversation around that and collaborative planning was, honestly, really due to a lot of the time between December and January where we had a large number of students in those grades that were quarantined. Right now we're really looking at how we continue to ensure that these

students continue to grow, and definitely have time to reinforce skills that were missed during this period of time.

- -overall learning gain as it relates to our RELA. We did continue to grow, we ended with the midterm at 1.004. And currently at a 1.009. Our students in the area above grade level and on grade level did increase. You'll see that our for watch students, we did have a decrease with a slight increase of our students below grade level. So what does that look like next? This kind of just really focuses on where we are as relates to this data from January, through support through actually had besonders to join one of our collaborative planning and to give feedback, a way to be able to norm our support that we provide for teacher's collaboration, looking at how to identify some of those big rocks to leverage our improvement, identify some attainable goals for classroom teachers more or less identifying areas of improvement that will definitely yield great gain.
- -continue with the scheduled walkthroughs and providing teacher feedback as it relates to improvement. Being an Imagine school, success time continues to be a priority for us. We did have some shifts this year. We definitely are focusing a lot on our freckle platforms in our MyON platforms.
- -Being able to make the connection between focused assessment skills that students need reinforcement on using individual small group instruction but allowing students to be able to



demonstrate their understanding on Freckle, which is an adaptable program that allows students to work above one grade level to be able to meet them where they are -MyON reading challenge - all Imagine Schools in MD participate and school was able to regain their 1st place status

#### **Parent Choice**

- -parent choice and our parent involvement piece, for the month of February, we did engage parents in a coffee with the counselors or parents who were able to ask specific questions as it relates to SEL services for our scholars, as well as any questions they may have heard about our programs, parent communication, we really been relying a lot on our Friday updates -this school year definitely has been one where information is moving quickly, every Friday we provide parents with a Friday update that gives them information as it relates to our program on COVID updates, reminders about the school week, in even down to clubs, which we're excited that we're venturing into for this quarter.
- -gearing up for PSAT for 8th grade students. Engaging them on google classroom, data received is an overall snapshot of how students performed. 19% of students met both

benchmarks in reading/math, 49% met reading/writing benchmarks and 23% met the math benchmarks. This assessment is used for entrance into specialty programs within the county high school.

- -African-American school read-in. Invited board members to come and read books to students for Black History month
- -Engaged in moments in Black History daily announcements led by Ms. Awana, Science teacher
- -Shared values character did engaged in Happy Valentine's day spending times with our friends and what friendship means, celebrated peace week with peaceful acts and celebrated 100th day of school
- -also national school counselor's day was celebrated

# **School Development**

- -excited to announce the girls' basketball team Lady Eagles are division school champs, the game was zoomed so that all can watch the game
- -worked hard to regain 1st place status for the MyON challenge. -MyON reading challenge all Imagine Schools in MD participate and school was able to regain their 1st place status Leeland had a 2nd grader with the most minutes read over 7,000 minutes
- -kicking off clubs going into the 2nd semester. Many of the clubs are geared toward the older scholars- clubs include: 3D printer, green team, student government, math club, Imagine Cares, newspaper, yearbook, reading intervention and support club, Spanish club and national honor society



# **Economic Sustainability**

-current enrollment at 465, next year projection at 490

# **Upcoming Events**

- -attendance dance
- -African American read in visits will continue
- -HBCU shirt day
- -Read across America- older scholars will read to younger scholars
- -star parade celebration next Friday.
- -semester 1 awards ceremony

#### **Questions:**

Ms. Amelga:

Q-Request - would like to see a breakdown of categories for STAR data. How is the learning gain calculated?

Ms. Williams

A- students have a constant gain, still shows growth regardless of grade

Ms. Amelga- would like to see where student is from the beginning to current testing

# Chat questions/comments

-parent was not aware of MyOn challenge, that info is updated in class dojo by class teachers -where are we with mask issues - if students come to school without mask, school will issue masks provided by County

# Morningside Report - Ms. Cypress, Interim Principal; Mr. Chiza, Assistant Principal Ms. Cypress - school and team are very welcoming to her taking over as principal. She is able

to see the love and growth at the school

-she is leading by learning. See the three big rocks, rigorous instruction, restorative environment and MicroSociety. Mr Chiza will present this portion and she will speak on the academic portion

#### Mr. Chiza-

## **Parent Choice**

- -communication with parents via class dojo, weekly/monthly newsletters with school happenings
- -K-2 scholar materials for virtual meeting
- -parents created a google form to send love notes to scholars and teachers to send their thanks and appreciation, uplifting for all the hard work to keep learning going
- -parent virtual conferences have taken place. Prioritizing scholars that are in need academically
- -upcoming parent town hall meeting with interim principal and Imagine board



# **Economic Sustainability**

-Current enrollment is 369, board had opportunity to review

## **Character Development**

School trait of the month is Kindness

-this month during community circle questions are aligned with character trait of the month developed by school counselor

Social emotional learning lesson taking place for all grade levels

- -Lunch bunches are still meeting up with different peer groups, girl groups, anger mgmt., etc.
- -Kickboard is still being monitored, scholars get points for good behaviors, PBIS event is coming up
- -Lunch and literacy time where students dedicate a portion of lunch to silent reading

## **Upcoming Events**

- -Kids Hart challenge will continue through Mar 14th
- -closing up civic voice for middle school students
- -100 days of kindness to celebrate 100 days in school. Kinder scholars counted to 100 during lunch to show their counting skills, middle school spread kindness around the school and elementary dressed up at 100 yr. olds

# MicroSociety Report - Kaya Benjamin

# Ms. Cypress

# **Academic Growth**

- -based on feedback goal is to dig deeper into assessment and academic data and chart the path of where we want to go as a school. Assessments completed by the scholars are Star winter assessment
- -professional development will be a big part of that, looking at data, regional coach who supports our teachers through cycles, very important part of the school community and rise up visit a true collaborative effort to help provide rigorous instruction to students
- -reading star data points (fall midterm winter) Not a lot of change has happened on the benchmark to advance. Based on this measurement the students are not on pace to grow. Below the 1.0 mark. Percentile for reading is at 42, slightly above the median. Identifying the grade levels that are performing well and also identify the grade levels that are struggling and have not grown. School is addressing this during the rise up meeting and developed a rise up action plan to address reading deficits



-chart presented shows the data for winter star early lit/reading. Did have increases in second grade at 20% of benchmark or advanced, other grades have very little increase and 4th grade had the largest decrease of students demonstrating benchmark/advanced

-in math data - not seeing much of a change. Did have a learning gain of 1.0, from fall to winter school is below and spg is below average at 32. Rise up plan does address math strategies, writing responses, taking a more tailored approach s to where we see students. Students who are performing and nonperforming will have success time more tailored to their academic needs. How are we ensuring that those at grade level maintain and grow where they are academically?

-presented math data by grade levels: increase of 11% in benchmark and advanced category, a cohort of 8th graders showed 10% increase, significance decrease with 6th & 7th graders who are in an accelerated math course. School will review and identify where those deficits are during rise up meeting and plans.

## **School Development**

- -continuing with MicroSociety, through ESSER funds we can use get 1to 1 devices for students to use
- -digital collection data that will give real time data, work on capacity to really analyze and use the data to determine our effectiveness and progress monitoring
- -kickboard will help us with student culture data
- -writing by design will help with writing data
- -professional development for the staff will include giving feedback that works
- -Eureka math for pre/post data

#### Rise Up

- -amazing day, most promising is that team moved away from quick fixes and talked about adapted changes and culture mindset that needs to take place as we work towards action plans for academics
- -talked about what board presentations can look like moving forward. Useful way to present info -data points for freckle usage has increased to 99% usage meaning teachers have assigned for students to use in math/reading and students are participating daily
- -school has started to participate in MyON challenge and has seen a tremendous increase usage of 3309 minutes read compared to 1st interval of 178 minutes read. School and scholars have embraced MyON

#### **Shared Values**

-highlight a few things: school was shouted out by PG County for providing justice for struggling readers



-mid-year conferences were successful, teachers shared their goals and growth for professional development. Great time to have one on one conversations with teachers to help review or create a plan of action for star data, reflection, etc.

## MicroSociety Report - Kaya Benjamin

8th grade student

Insider look at MicroSociety from a student's perspective

- -each Wed student spend 2 hrs. learning engaging crucial life skills, managing and marketing various business ventures
- -shared 2 8th grade ventures, Da bank that sells wallets, loans and helps with account balances and checking. Personal venture Release some steam sells products that helps release stress
- -business are still in planning stages, hiring teams, pricing, marketing,
- -Shared MicroSociety website and how they will navigate on line
- -business highlighted historical black figures during Black History Month that relates to various MicroSociety business ventures

Mr. Chiza - once MicroSociety opens up invites will be sent to board

#### **Questions:**

Ms. Amelga

Q: what time frame does the change in proficiency represent in the star data?

A: they are from the midterm to winter

Q: noticed that 2nd grade had a really strong success time being implemented and shows in their scores. The 7th grade scores do stand out and I'm looking forward to future discussions. Thank you for all you do to move the school forward to success.

#### **Chat Question**

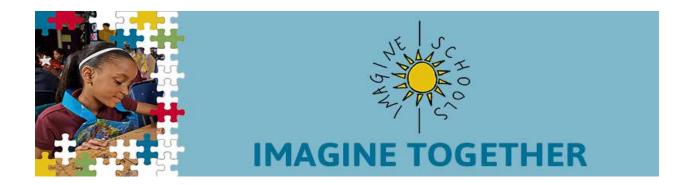
Q: Are schools ensuring that teachers are following mask mandates? (Sharon Willingham) A: Yes, all teachers, staff and scholars are required to wear masks and are doing so at both campuses

## Financial Report - Mr. Wiggins (via Mr. Pollard)

-want to make sure there is good transparency and having more discussions regarding school budgets and evolving the process of financial management and budgeting process. We will have more updates in March

## Financial Report - Mr. Evans, Sr Accountant Imagine Regional Office

-broad overview of the financial statements of each school



# Morningside Report as of Jan 31st

- -as of 2.7 mil portion of total annual revenue, total for school year is 4.5 mil
- -total expenses is currently 2.6million (regular and ESSER grant expenses)
- -cash on hand 1.3mil
- -school is projected to have cash on ha
- -1.5 mil is the entire ESSER grant, however has not received the cash is on a reimbursement basis
- -amount budget for current school year is \$9
- -based on the scholars confirmed

## **Leeland Report**

- -total revenue for year 3.3 mil out of the 5.6 mil it will receive
- -total expenses is 3.4 mil, leave a budget deficit of \$888
- -cash on hand is
- -ESSER grants received 1.8mil for 3-year period, 1.3 is budgeted to be spent between now and June 30 for 479 students confirmed as of Oct 2021
- -budgets are evolving over the year
- **Q** Since it's a board oversight we can request what we want to see, can there be a list of the major items used for ESSER funds

A- yes can provide that, most of the funds go to facilities

Chat Question - Is the difference of ESSER grant funds based on the scholars per school.

- A- The ESSER grants were based on the county factors used for public/charter schools
- Q- what actual expenses does the ESSER grants cover
- **A** the grants cover items that are COVID related expenses computers for students, sanitizing materials, etc. For each item the school requested there was a list that they had to use for approval.

# Academic Regional Director Report – Mr. Travis Miller Academic Growth and Achievement

- -imagine participated in joy at the school leadership summit for 3 days the theme was about bringing a sense of collection and collaborative to schools by all stakeholders. This will prepare for a future regional leadership summit in Aug.
- -taking a look at data analysis, able to sift through the data, what are the drivers behind the data, not just the numbers but how each day should be impactful for students



-core instruction - ensuring teachers have the knowledge and skills to deliver instruction, students need to understand where they are academically, national character essay to encourage the love of writing and benefits of good character at Imagine schools -Assessments - star assessments and PG County Benchmarks

# **Academic Coaching Focus**

-biweekly coaching focus: data review with tableau platform looking at all usage, 30-60-90 day plan 2nd round of coaching cycles to support teachers at all levels, professional developments doing a book study on student centered coaching and using instructional groupings to improve SST to create teacher led scholar success time.

Morningside Rise Up: reviewed school goals, action plan development (rise up and PG county) both should mirror one another and SEP/SPP. Creating action steps to ensure that team is going in the right director

-evolution of scholar success time: ensuring that resources used on renaissance platforms and instructional groupings are created based on students' needs. Goal is for higher level academic abilities.

#### **No Questions**

#### Comment:

Ms. Amelga- create a quick glossary of most used acronyms during the meetings Mr. Toler: yes, a list can be

#### Question:

Ms. Clark - asking if social media can be connected to your school's websites Mr. Will - yes school websites are being redesigned and that will happen shortly

# Parental Engagement Report - Ms. Brown, Board Member

- -glad parents received invite to meeting and happy to have parents involved
- -will ensure the question form is sent in time to have any questions addressed at the board meeting
- -will plan for first town hall meeting and send invites

# Board Operational Report - Mr. Pollard, Board Chairman

- -extension of parent engagement
- -developing a critical role profile to identify key critical roles we need to add to the board, our plan is to reach out to parents and add parent board members
- -talked about financial management



# Facilities Report - Mr. Miller, Regional Facilities Director

-completed several projects at both campuses

#### Leeland

- -moved remaining desk/chairs into classroom for students return to school on Jan 31
- -repaired kitchen freezer
- -worked with vestry to complete fire alarm system repairs in Marlboro hall and heating in Seton Belt
- -128K ESSER funds facilities expense report reimbursement submitted for July-Dec

## Morningside

- --moved remaining desk/chairs into classroom for students return to school on Jan 31
- -branded windscreen installed on fencing of rear of school building
- -playground equipment repair completed
- -heating repairs completed with PG County facilities
- -42K ESSER funds facilities expense report reimbursement submitted for July-Dec

## Leeland projects underway

- -WSSC water/sewer construction by vestry is underway
- -awaiting delivery of cafe tables
- -move and reconstruction housing marquee sign
- -HVAC system assessment by mechanical engineer
- -quality indoor air quality testing

## Morningside projects underway

- -painting of playground system pending warm weather
- -security/buzzer upgrades have been received and pending scheduling
- -PGCPS and Pepco facilities repairs to exterior lighting pending
- -HVAC system assessment by mechanical engineer
- -quality indoor air quality testing

**Chat question-** are there any plans to revamp the Leeland playground Q- yes, ESSER funds have been allocated for that and plans are being worked on those changes now.

## IT/Marketing Report- Will Patterson, Tina Chavis

-technology and marketing team are working together to promote the school



- -new improvement: complete web designs to both school's websites, it will include who we are as Imagine, good clean layout, redesigning the introduction of the board members
- -purchased portable signs to be placed outside of school and will offer a QR code so that all can have the info of board meetings
- -schedule appointments for board members to take uniform photos for the site
- -ESSER funds were used to purchase interactive boards

## **No Questions**

# **Board Community Engagement Report - Mr Douglas, Board Member**

- -glad parents received invite to meeting and happy to have parents involved
- -will ensure the question form is sent in time to have any questions addressed at the board meeting
- -will plan for first town hall meeting and send invites
- -working with Morningside to create a community fair and plan with Mayor Ken to connect with community stakeholders. More info to come during March meeting

Meeting adjourned 7:14PM