

# STRATFORD SCHOOL CURRICULUM MEETING

October 16, 2019

Representatives: Karen Butt, Krista Irwin, Emily Mohsenian

PTA Stratford Director: Amy Mueller

Staff Members present: Mrs. Vota, Mr. Hartigan, Ms. Mustacchio, Mrs. Schaefer and Mrs. Connolly

## AGENDA

### 1. Homework Table/No Recess Policy

Mrs. Vota indicated that Stratford's general policy is to have students make up missed homework during recess. Although there is flexibility for teachers to handle it the best way they see fit. If there is a consistent pattern of missed homework the teachers will contact parents to discuss any concerns or problems and jointly figure out the best way to get the homework completed

### 2. Band Rehearsal During Recess

The fifth grade band has very little time to prepare for all (4) of their performances and it is very difficult to coordinate all the students' schedules. Therefore, Ms. Kane finds holding practice twice a week during recess time to be the least disruptive. Prior to signing up for band, parents are notified that rehearsals will occur twice a week during recess. Students go to lunch after band rehearsal.

### 3. Literacy Development - Teachers College Reading Workshop

- Understanding Reading Workshop – Mrs. Vota spoke about how Teachers College is being implemented in the classroom. There are set teaching points, mini lesson, active engagement for kids, mid workshop interruption and a share. There is an underlying “I do, we do, you do” philosophy throughout. The TC model also focuses on scaffolded learning and provides lessons that build on to each other. There is an emphasis on making connections between the previous lesson and today's lesson. Teachers were doing this before but now it's much more consistent across classrooms and grades.
- Reading Stamina – The teachers are noticing that the reading stamina is low amongst our students, the teachers are all working on helping students increase their stamina. With the additional focus on independent reading throughout K-5, the expectation is that reading stamina will increase at all grades and students will come to Stratford with greater reading stamina.
- Mrs. Vota would love to see families help out with students reading stamina by increasing the time the students spend reading at home.
- Classroom libraries – Teachers workshop has a library of books that they suggest be in each classroom. These libraries are very expensive and even with increased budget and grants we have not been able to complete the libraries in each classroom. We discussed different ways parents and PTA can help increase the classroom libraries. Amy Mueller (Stratford Director) will look into options further as there are restrictions on donations.
- Parent Support – Mrs. Vota has requested the curriculum committee meet again in the near future to discuss ways to get more family support to increase the students' reading stamina. A date will be setup shortly.

**4. FUNdations in Second Grade**

Fundations is going well in second grade. A staff developer comes 5x a year for 1.5 hours to help teachers implement the workshop in their classrooms.

**5. NWEA**

The spring 2019 NWEA reports are available on the Parent Portal. Teachers are utilizing the data they receive from NWEA as one of the tools that aid in more focused teaching and learning.