

SCHOOL: McNair Discovery Learning Academy

DATE: April 29, 2014

MEETING TYPE – Check one (X)

Administrative Team	Leadership Team X	Grade Level	Department or Content	School Council	Grade Level or Department Chair	Other S.T.E.M.
	Members Present: Ms. A. Carter Ms. T. Pearson Ms. D. Pitts Mrs. K. Spencer Dr. Bolden Dr. Delmas Watkins Ms. Hannah Maharaj Mr. Timothy Schmitt					

OPENING:

Dr. Bolden and members of Dr. Delmas Watkins's team toured various areas of the school building (e.g. the Science Lab) to view the S.T.E.M. artifacts that have been put in place by the school's current S.T.E.M. team.

WORK SESSION:

Dr. Watkins and team stated that we are heading in the right direction for fully implementing S.T.E.M. in our building. We have received credit for the work done this school year. The advice given includes the following:

- integration of all subjects (very important piece)
- have students to work on solving real-world problems
- we could put a thematic spin on our S.T.E.M. Program (e.g. a space for Dr. Ronald E. McNair), but this is not necessarily recommended
- questions to focus on: What is engineering? What is S.T.E.M.?
- focus on the girls because studies show girls are more interested in making the world a better place.
- Strategic Planning needs to include all student populations
- EIE (Engineering is Elementary) is a great jumpoff point (download videos, PowerPoints)
- Create a goal planning sheet (include tasks related to S.T.E.M. by month)
- Best practices are important!
- Introduce students to the Engineering Design Process
- Include Design Challenge Days (perhaps 1 Friday of each month)
- Identify business partners (ensure they represent the students we serve because students need to see someone like them doing certain jobs)
- Educate parents about what is going on in our building regarding the program
- Allow students to do things they are interested in (e.g. - if students wish to complete a different project from one that has been assigned in class, allow them the autonomy to do so)
- The EIE Framework is critical to the S.T.E.M. Process
- Introduce projects **before** you begin the instruction (Do this so you can identify what it is you need to know to solve the given problem)
- Once S.T.E.M. has been implemented, we will notice a culture shift towards inquiry/project-based learning
- Continue using the EIE Design Model because it teaches kids that it's ok to fail
- Remind students that the improvement process may take up to two weeks
- Correlate engineering tasks to the standards
- Infuse data into S.T.E.M. activities to differentiate them from arts & crafts
- S.T.E.M. Journals are essential. They help students become great @ Procedural/Informational Writing

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- creates critical thinkers
- helps students work collaboratively

Next Steps:

- Set clear goals (for the next two years)
- Look at aligning engineering tasks with the standards
- Ensure that staff members understand what engineering is about
- Hold each other accountable for completion of tasks
- Seek help when needed

For team meetings, focus on:

- Why is S.T.E.M. important? What is it? What is it not?
- What do we believe? (visit DeKalb S.T.E.M folder)
- Look @ the S.T.E.M. rubric to ensure we are in compliance
- Think outside the box!!!
- Use the Engineering Design process to set up our S.T.E.M. team

CLOSING:

We will meet again May 6, 2014.

Additional Next Steps:

- Science Lab clean up – Ms. Carter **In Progress**
- Continue STEM-ifying the building – all STEM teachers