



BOARD MEETING NOTES: Zoom Call

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Apologies for absence: Shakia Clark, Dr. Linda Tharp

1. Welcome (Bishop Ed Stephens, Jr.)

Bishop greeted everyone and gave a special welcome to new Board member, Donette Byrd, expressing gratitude at having her on the team.

2. Academic Report (Mr. James Johnson)

2.1 Instructional Pulse Update: Math, ELA

ELA: A lot of the strengths remain the same.

Students are receiving affirming feedback from teachers that is specific to the student, not simply generic for the class. And teachers are continuing to cultivate a positive environment in the classroom.



ELA Strengths and Opportunities

Strengths	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Text focus: Text was the focus of the lesson in the majority of the classrooms observed. Core Action 1B• Affirming feedback: Students from historically marginalized communities consistently received supportive feedback from their teachers and peers. Core Action 2F• Positive environment: There was such joy and excitement in all ELA classrooms observed today! Students were excited to participate and were supportive of each other.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questioning to build knowledge: The sequencing of teacher created questions to support student learning wasn't always present in a way that allowed students to build their own knowledge of the text and develop mastery of the breadth and depth of the standard. Core Action 2D• Lack of explanation: Questioning often focused on reaching one right answer instead of having students use evidence to support the explanation of their own ideas. Core Action 3C• Student conversations: Students were not asked to talk to each other or ask questions about each other's thinking in order to clarify or improve their understanding. Core Action 3D

MATH: All students are being exposed to grade level expectations.



Math Strengths and Opportunities

Strengths	Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Use of Curriculum for Instruction and Structure: 100% of observed classrooms demonstrated alignment with components of the HQIM.● Lesson Goal: 100% of observed lessons reflected mathematics within the grade-level standards.● Circulation: Teachers circulated the room to observe students working independently.● Joy: Students enjoy learning math.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Checks For Understanding: More precise CFU's that target misconceptions and misunderstandings within a given lesson Core Action 2C● Varied Means of Participation: While teachers move throughout their lessons, there was little to no opportunities for student-to-student discussions as a way to check for understanding and improve mathematical understanding. Core Action 3D

2.2 3rd Grade Literacy Commitment Update

Mr. Johnson showed an example of the spreadsheet that will be shared with the Board at the end of the year to show i-Ready scores from those students who might be at risk of retention (based on State expectations).

If a parent appeals a decision to hold their student back, the Board will have all the grades for each at-risk child in order to help make a recommendation.

3. Operations Report (Dr. Ed Stephens III)

3.1 Capital Projects Update

Playground

Dr. Stephens shared that, as of yesterday, the outer perimeter of the new playground was installed. The asphalt will go down on Feb 28th and everything should be complete by March 31st. Everyone is excited to have this ready before the school year ends.

Storage Building

The start date for this is April 1st, but Dr. Stephens explained that if the playground gets finished early, we can move that date forward.

Parking Lot

This has been tabled until Summer 2023.

3.2 Discussion: STAR Future – Growth Engine

Dr. Stephens reminded the Board that STAR has a goal to reach 350 students. It's an aggressive goal but one that can be accomplished with the right tools. He presented a couple of growth strategies that could be implemented in the future and asked for the Board's feedback.

Dr. Stephens also let the Board know that STAR is a finalist with a national philanthropic organization which could mean a significant injection of funds toward the expansion of the school.

4. Closing Remarks (Bishop Ed Stephens, Jr.)

Bishop thanked everyone for their time, talents, and commitment to STAR Academy.

Motion to adjourn by Brack Henderson.

Seconded by Paul Stephens.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 29th, 2023