

**OCTORARA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES  
January 22, 2024 – 6:00 PM  
Jr. High School Multi-Purpose Room**

Education Committee members in attendance: Mr. Norris, Mr. Koennecker, Ms. Williamson. Other members present were Mr. Ganow, Mr. Lusby, Ms. Metzler, and Mr. Zimmerman. Also in attendance were Mrs. Hardy, Secretary, Dr. Leever, Superintendent, members of the administrative team, and one visitor.

Under Focus Area #1: Student Health and Wellness, Dr. Leever spoke about the need for mental health help in schools coming out of the pandemic. There have been 115 mental health referrals as of January 18 this year. He expressed the need for more mental health services and to put an action plan in place for next year. It is difficult for families to see outside mental health services due to the wait time for an appointment and insurance coverage. Principals shared how the mental health services are helping in their buildings. District mental health referrals come after a conversation with the student's parent/guardian. Parents/guardians and students over age 15 can refuse the service. Parents are aware of all referrals unless Children and Youth are involved.

Under Focus Area #2: Continuous School Improvement for Student Learning, Dr. Leever gave an update on the Comprehensive Planning. The Board will see the preliminary view of the plan on February 19 with final approval on March 20.

Building principals reviewed their goals and progress in the School Improvement Plan, tier supports, and achievement and growth.

Dr. Tachau reviewed the winter 2023 MAP Growth testing data in reading and math for each building. The results of the testing are reviewed and data is deliberated for improvement of student growth and achievement.

Dr. Tachau shared the results of the K-6 Literacy Audit by Schools Cubed. She discussed the strengths and recommendations for assessments and data-based decision making, interventions, professional development, and collaboration and school leadership. She reviewed the action plan for each of the next three school terms.

Under Focus Area #3: Collaboration and Building Collective Efficacy Through Achievement Teams, building principals highlighted how they are using the teams in their buildings. We are trying to change the way we think about what we do in the classroom and how we respond when students don't learn.

Dr. Leever gave the Board a Roadmap of upcoming discussions at the Education Committee meetings for the remainder of the year. He expressed his pride in the team and said this is only the beginning of what it looks like to have a school that is constantly improving.

The committee adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill L. Hardy, Secretary  
Octorara Board of School Directors