

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Committee: YHALE Academic Committee

Meeting need not be verbatim. These minutes are a brief summary of the events of the meeting.

Date:	Start	End	Next Meeting:	Next time:	Prepared by:
5/29/25	7:01PM	8:29PM	6/26/25	6:30PM	Lyn Carden
Meeting Location:					
Virtual					
Attended by:					
Liza Park Tomiko Park Anthony Chung Ami Hastings Ji Ma		Lyn Carden			
Highlights:					

CALL TO ORDER 7:01

I. Committee Updates – No updates

II. Middle School Planning –

- Ms. T. Park provided an update on the orchestra survey. 22 interested students. The committee discussed track, by section. Ms. T. Park reported that there were several students in 3-5 that are current music playing students interested. She recommended to the committee that they consider including them and suggested she could work to get their schedules aligned. She reported that of middle school students alone there were 12 with 6 of whom current play. She reported that as a part of the survey she received very good parent feedback, thanking the school for considering a music program and asking about chorus opportunities. She is currently working with area colleges for partnerships.
- The committee discussed the challenges for keeping orchestra DLI. Ms. L Park discussed the original intent and noted that it would be hard to keep this program in the percentage of DLI opportunities. Ms. T. Park reviewed the current connections plan. Mr. Chung said he agreed with the committee and was glad that parent input was being so heavily considered in these matters.
- He discussed the teams and club opportunities that were planned for next school year. Ms. L. Park discussed the partnership with UFA and reported that students would register by their birthday and not grade, which might give 4th & 5th grade students an opportunity to participate, in addition to middle school students. The committee discussed costs. Ms. L. Park recommended that during the summer the school identify a committee that could begin work on the clubs for next year.

III. Target Language – Ms. Ma presented

- She discussed the STAMP results
- She noted the challenge of the test for older students and reported that she recommended basic foundational preparation to parents prior to the students taking it.

- She presented DLI student results which showed improvement of students in both tracks in all categories from 1st to 2nd semester
- Ms. Ma discussed challenges of students who are struggling and the plan to support
- She reported on teachers requests which included more structured curriculum map, which the leadership team was working on.
 - i. She discussed Gwinnett County curriculum
 - ii. She discussed MSOL student opportunities
- She reviewed requests from the First-grade team who is asking for a shared paraprofessional
- They discussed the proficiency evaluation forms and discussed the idea of adopting a standardized proficiency performance review as opposed to in house. Mr. Chung reported that in his discussions with staff approximately 50% were interested in moving to a more standardized plan, he recommended starting at one grade level to see results.
- Ms. Ma reported on a request to switch morning classes and afternoon at the semester break. The committee discussed the advantages and disadvantages of that plan.
- Ms. Ma reported that the elementary teaching staff is requesting additional support in specials with professional development
- Mr. Chung reported that the leadership team has begun work on the curriculum map.
- Ms. L Park discussed the DLI screener and her anticipation of a continued steady improvement of student DLI results.
- Ms. L Park discussed the reasons she believes parents are so supportive of the school.
- Ms. Ma shared the reading proficiency results from Chinese track, noting they don't have the assessment for the Korean track yet but are working on that. She noted the improvement of students.

IV. Curriculum & Academic Development

- Early Literacy Committee Update – Mr. Chung reported
 - i. ELC committee is having a summer planning session in June. Their goal is to identify implementation goals, time lines and expected outcomes, as well as, teachers preplanning and training opportunities during independent learning days. The team and leaders are working on effectiveness evaluation regarding the new curriculum so that by the end of year two they will be able to determine if YHALE would like to extend the curriculum contract or identify another curriculum.
- New assessment system implementation plan update – Ms. T. Park presented
 - i. She reminded the committee that Amira was what the school had selected to meet the state requirements for an assessment tool of reading deficiencies. She noted that Amira is free, as a part of the schools recently purchased reading curriculum. She told the committee that all of that training is scheduled as a part of preplanning
 - ii. The committee discussed the integration of Amira with infinite campus.

V. Reporting Update

- G-Kids final – Complete.
- FY26 CLIP cycle 2 – Ms. T. Park reported that as a part of the CLIP, the next steps include a scheduled committee meeting with staff members and stakeholders to discuss school climate and MAP data, they will also be reviewing feedback and setting goals.

VI. Old Business

- FY26 re-enrollment update – Mr. Chung provided a report.
 - i. He presented the most recent reenrollment results, noting the increase. Ms. L. Park agreed that was great news and recommended that in the future the school needs a process and procedure in place to ensure families who have not responded are contacted and so the school could have a more accurate student count for forward funding projection.

VII. New Business

- 5th grade exit interviews – Ms. Hastings presented
 - i. Ms. Hastings reported that prior to the end of the school year she arranged exit surveys with nearly every 5th grader who would be leaving YHALE. They discussed their experiences at YHALE, what led to their decision and asked them to identify opportunities for the school. She reported they enjoyed the language immersion and felt their language skills had improved significantly, additionally most of them intend to continue in their language learning in the future. They loved their teachers and the small class sizes and felt YHALE offered a positive learning environment. They appreciated their friendship and events YHALE had. As for growth opportunities – they talked about facilities, specifically a gym, auditorium, outdoor space or larger communal spaces. They said they were looking forward to broader opportunities in middle schools. Some of them described the curriculum in the lower grades as too easy and repetitive in core subjects. As for later grades they didn't feel there was a big enough focus in social studies. Some of the students noted that inappropriate peer behavior wasn't adequately addressed. However, overall, they said felt safe and heard. Ms. Hastings reported that she felt the students were really articulate and very open. Some said some of the students made the choice to leave because of logistical challenges and lack of after school flexibility. She said that one thing that really stuck with her, was that primarily for all the kids, it was their decision, it wasn't prompted by the parents. She provided a few quotes from students. Ms. Hastings told the committee she would provide the family exit surveys at the next committee meeting.
- Milestone retest report – Ms. T. Park presented
 - i. The school had 12 students total participate in retesting and the school is awaiting the results. She noted that the final day for retesting, statewide was July 17 so they would not be receiving the retest results prior to that. Ms. T. Park reported that for 3rd grade retest students, all but one were in ESOL and that same for 5th grade. Additionally, most were new to the school, some as recent as the spring. She discussed the timing of retesting and the writing element challenges. Ms. L. Park discussed language challenges for high stakes testing.

VIII. Next Meeting Date June 26, 2025 at 6:30pm – The committee agreed that they would have a brief meeting in June and note meet in July.

ADJOURNMENT – 8:29pm