

Howard County School Health Council
March 4, 2015
(10:00am-12:00pm)

I. Welcome

Anne Markus

- Open Meeting: 10:00 a.m.
- **Attendees:** Kelly Bickersteth, Deborah Lattimer, Anne Markus, Ekere Olojola, Linda Rangos, Colleen Nester, Kim Flyr, Ann DeLacy, Joan Webb-Scornaienchi.
- **Guest:** Jessica Savage, Lea Jaspers, Donna Mazyck.

II. Approval of Agenda

- Approved

III. Approval of November Meeting Minutes

- Approved

IV. What's New? Quick Updates and Announcements from SHC Members

V. << Focus on What is Strong, Not What is Wrong >>: Overview of the HCPSS/Gallup Partnership

Kim Flyr, HCPSS, Resource Counselor

- Strength Initiative in the school system – All students have different strengths and the focus is placed on the strengths of the student and how can more of the student's time be spent doing what he/she is good at. This initiative is looking at not only student, but staff as well. Motivate both student and staff to see what they are best at, changing the approach to learning.
- Peered with the Gallup Organization has done research in reference to engagement and nationwide only about 30% to 40% of people are engaged in their work. The school system staff were surveyed and the result were about 30% - 40% were engaged in their work.
- Website, the Superintendent of School speaks about the Strength Initiative
- Ways in which the Strength Initiative is coming into the school system: Leadership staff from the Board of Education was sent to intensive 3-days of Gallup training the Summer of 2014. Idea being to shift their mind set into the way they influence others. Leaders were sent to the training because it was found through the Gallup Organization studies, that strong leadership engage staff, and staff engages students.
- The Gallup Organization identified what they call a student success model.

Theory: “Based on Gallup’s research into the human elements that drive students success, the Gallup students strengths model explains how investing in students strengths ,their hopes for the future, engagement with learning, well being will lead to measureable student out comings that will matter to students, parents, educators, and policy makers. The combined measure of these factors is predictive of student outcome such as grades, credits earned, achievement scores, likely-hood stay in school and future employment. Like most life outcomes, student success is a product of many factors. Recognizing that it does not account for all elements that determine academic progress, the Gallup student success model describes how strengths development leads to hope and engagement that in turn will lead to well-being and academic success.”

- Six elementary schools models are doing additional work – focusing Running Brook, Bryant Wood, Talbot Springs, Stevens Forest, Phelps Luck, and Ducketts Lane (Pre-K not included at Ducketts Lane only).
- These schools have full day Pre-K, World language for all students, Telehealth, Strength Program school wide, and Departmentalization (research shows that teachers who have more additional planning time to focus on one subject are better prepared to teach). In these schools the teachers are instructing in only a subject area (Reading and Language Arts teacher instructs only that subject).
These modeled schools are being watch carefully because their data is being monitored in hopes of seeing gains in these schools that can be replicated if it works.
- Grades 6-12 were given the Strength Explorer Assessment to help them identify their strengths.
- In the future of this Strength Initiative only 6 graders will be given the Strength Explorer Assessment.
- Theme: Growing Strong – Five Principles
 - 1) Goal setting lesson with the children
 - 2) Do what I do best every day
 - 3) Celebrate effort and achievement
 - 4) Engage in positive experiences
 - 5) Create excitement about the future
- These schools have instruction on brain development, health, strengths and mind set, academic goal setting lesson, teachable moments, strength developments, and discussions with students about their strengths.
- Video: What you wish you had known about yourself at age 10. Write yourself a letter.

- Strength Development, tools developed by Gallup.
Two different Strength Assessments given; one given to the children, and one given to the staff.
Categories: caring, dependability, future thinker, confidence, organizer, achieving, presence, discover, and relating.
- Three Phrases of Strength Development that Gallup has identified are called Name, Claim and Aim.
 1. Take the test and name your strength.
 2. Do you understand what your strengths are, and do you know how to utilize them.
 3. I know where I want to go.
- Other tools being used:
 1. Educator Playbook (use in Elementary school models), it as different ideas the educator can use the strengths to work with students.
 2. Student Playbook – has worksheets to aid the student in working with their strengths.
 3. Parent Playbook – helps the parents to understand the child’s strengths and develop them.
- Naviance is a computer system program used in all middle, and high schools. Naviance has a contract with Gallup where they bring the Strength Explorer as a tool. Starting from middle school through high school, the students will input information into this system and be able to use it for applying to colleges, career inventories, interest inventories, and the students can match their interest with different schools. The Naviance computer program addresses the student’s interest, strengths, goal settings and it allows them to explore. The program uses data to counsel, and advise students. The data given by student, data from the assessments, and the student’s grades will help the student know what are their options, and to make informed decisions with their families.

VI. Wellness Sub-Committee

- Concerns: The sub-committee being a reflective representation of the community which is demographically made of many different ethnic groups.
- Ideas on how to ensure the sub-committee process is better in regards to getting a diverse group that represents the community.

VII. Nominating Committee

- Appointed Linda Rangos and Deb Lattimer to the Nominating Committee to select the new officers for SY 2015-2017

VIII. Public Input

IX. Adjourn Meeting

- 12:00 p.m.