

RSU #16 Elementary Principals' Report

September 2023

RSU #16 Elementary School News:

We are excited to share that the Maine DOE has awarded RSU 16 a grant to participate in the *Building Assets, Reducing Risks* (BARR) program. BARR is an educational model that focuses on identifying and building on students' strengths; creating positive, intentional relationships; and using real-time student data in collaborative problem-solving settings to guide action. PRHS and BWMS have participated in BARR for several years, and this opportunity will provide training and ongoing support to extend the program to our elementary schools.

Individual School News:

Elm Street School	Minot Consolidated School	Poland Community School
<p><u>Data point of the month:</u> Elm Street School currently has 228 students enrolled in grades PK-6.</p> <p><u>Attendance:</u> -Our average daily attendance rate for the first three days of school was 97.85%. -It is too early in the school year to be able to report on chronic absenteeism.</p> <p><u>Behavior:</u> Similar to MCS, we have had no ODRs in the first three days of school. Teachers have been working hard to teach expectations and procedures in our common areas during these first few days of school.</p> <p><u>Highlights of the past Month:</u> *Our Back to School Open House was well attended last week. It was wonderful seeing all of our Wildcats and their families together at school. Parents were able to send special notes for their children on the first day, sign up for Boy Scouts, complete the meal assistance form, visit their child's classrooms, and end their time with some ice cream on the playground. We were happy to once again</p> <p>Welcome the Cool Treats for Charity cart back again this year!</p> <p>*Our new RSU 16, Resource Officer, Bernie Westleigh spent some time in the first week of school visiting</p>  	<p><u>Data point of the month:</u> Minot Consolidated School currently has 211 students enrolled in grades PK-6.</p> <p><u>Attendance:</u> -Our average daily attendance rate for the first three days of school was 97.8%. -It is too early in the school year to be able to report on chronic absenteeism.</p> <p><u>Behavior:</u> We have had zero ODRs in the first three days! Teachers have been teaching expectations and procedures during these first few days of school.</p> <p><u>Highlights of the past Month:</u> -It was great to come back together as a staff after the summer. Staff were excited to be together once again, and the building looked amazing and ready to welcome students!</p>  <p>-We welcomed students and their families back into the building at Open House. Owen House was well attended and there was a lot of excitement in the air as we began a new year! -On a sad note, MCS experienced some additional pipe issues on the second day of school. There has been some rusting within the cast iron drainage pipes, which caused a blockage in the kitchen. Therefore, waste materials got backed up and then ran out of the floor drain in the kitchen. The plumbers removed the blockage, and SERVPRO was called in to clean and sanitize the kitchen.</p>  	<p><u>Data point of the month:</u> Our current enrollment at Poland Community School is 433 students, this includes two of our FLS students.</p> <p><u>Attendance:</u> We had 10 students absent at least one day this month. The percentage of students who have been present everyday was 98%. This is due to students who have not unenrolled or started school.</p> <p><u>Behavior:</u> We had one ODR (Office Discipline Referral) in August. This means that 99% of our students did not receive a referral during the first week of school.</p> <p><u>Highlights of the past Month:</u> We started our year with an amazing turnout for Open House. It was nice to see so many smiling faces! We met many new families and even had former students come back to say hi. We set up our gym with different informational booths again this year, which families seemed to enjoy. Many people filled out the lunch forms as well as visited our Math4ME booth, driveline, PTA, and bus route booth.</p>  <p>The first day was filled with excitement as our students arrived ready to be back with their teachers and friends. By the end of the week everyone was ready for the long weekend, including the teachers! The gradual work-up to a full five day week is always appreciated!</p> <p>We had two fire drills during the first week and the students did perfect! I couldn't believe how</p>

classrooms and getting to know our students and staff! We appreciate her positive energy and her presence in our building during such a busy first week!

*Teachers spent the first few days of school teaching our school-wide expectations for our common areas. This ensures that all of our students are taught the expectations in each area throughout the beginning of the year.



*We are excited to be participating in the Girls on the Run Program here at ESS. We have three staff members, Becca Ducharme, Nichole Bryant, and Victoria Kelley who will be serving as coaches this year. At Girls on the Run, "We envision a world where every girl knows and activates her limitless potential and is free to boldly pursue her dreams. While we are proud to have served more than 2.25 million girls since we were founded in 1996, we recognize that many girls face challenges and barriers that make reaching their potential more difficult for them than their peers. Research shows that Girls on the Run has a positive impact on all participants and has the greatest impact on girls who enter the program with lower perceptions of their physical, social and emotional competencies. We are committed to providing programming to participants from all communities and backgrounds."

Staff Professional Development:

*We participated in two days of in-person BARR Training led by our elementary district Barr coach, Amy Holstrom. We are excited to be using this new learning to improve our structures, supports, and communication



with our students, families, and staff. One key aspect of the training was helping

to better leverage the resources, tools, and supports we currently have to support our students' social, emotional, mental, and academic well-being by focusing on student strengths and assets.



*Horrace Mann joined us on August 25th to offer breakfast to our staff and to

share information about educator based resources such as retirement and loan forgiveness. We appreciate their continued support with our staff through the Hootie

-We continue to have wonderful support from our parents and community volunteers who help cover recess and lunch duties throughout the week. We could not do it without their support and are always looking for more!

-The School Leadership Team met throughout the summer and has rolled out a 90 Day Plan to address Chronic Absenteeism, Student Behavior, and the formation of a Student Advisory Team. We are excited about the progress we've already made and look forward to celebrating some successes at the end of October!

-The staff has been working hard each day to teach the common area expectations to students. Students have learned how to be Safe, Respectful, and Responsible in the hallways, cafeteria, playground, restrooms, and bus!



Staff Professional Development:

-Our amazing and dedicated staff returned to school early in order to participate in BARR (Building Assets, Reducing Risks) Training. The training was informative, and the presenters were energetic. Staff left feeling connected and prepared to start implementation of the model!



-In addition, MCS staff completed our series of yearly mandatory trainings, PBIS training, and were presented an update by the School Leadership Team.

We could really use...

-Additional Volunteers to cover a few more duties or to have back ups in case we have a day when one is not able to attend.

-Our special ed programs across the district are in need of additional ed techs in order to provide the level of support that is required for our students with IEPs.

-Themed raffle basket donations for our Fall Harvest Dinner fundraiser.

You're Invited:

-You are invited to volunteer in our school during any time that is convenient for you! (We appreciate the school board members

well the first one went. If you ever want to see a fire drill done right, come to PCS. These students are amazing. It is so quiet you can hear a pin drop. Our students are so respectful, responsible, and safe.

Students have begun to learn routines and were able to meet each specialist using a modified specials schedule. Our kindergarteners were able to have their first experience in Art, Library, P.E. and Music, with our new music teacher, Mr. Orlando.



Shout out to Deputy Westleigh who was able to return three students to our school who had significant difficulties attending. She worked hard with the families and students to get them motivated to attend. The students are excited to be at school and have said they actually like school. Also, we would like to thank Chief Printup for replacing our old American Flag.

Staff Professional Development:

The start of a new year always includes a great deal of professional development, but some of our dedicated staff were busy learning over the summer as well. Seven people went to the Math4ME 2 day training in Hallowell. We can't wait to share more about this initiative with you in the upcoming months.

We also had several teachers participate in First Aid/CPR with Lucien Gendron in August, as well as the Creating a Classroom Environment for Behavioral Success training with our Behavior Dean Martha Moore. Staff also participated in work with our Literacy Coach, Kelly LaBonte all before the school year started!

Award and with our upcoming attendance initiative in the month of September.

*Our remaining PD days in August were spent completing our PBIS training, reviewing our emergency procedures, basic health/safety training, reviewing our building goals and the work from our Summer Leadership Team meeting.

We could really use...

-Our special ed programs across the district are in need of additional ed techs in order to provide the level of support that is required for our students with IEPs.

-We would love to have additional volunteers to assist with recess, lunch duties or to help out with the Book Buddy Program. We love having adults spend time reading with our students.

*If you have a passion/knowledge for running and would like to guest coach sometimes (or even just once!), we'd love to have you!

You're Invited:

*We have our Attendance Awareness Kick-Off Assembly on Friday, September 15th at 2:30.

who have already committed to supporting our school through volunteering!)

-Minot Community Club Meeting: September 12th at 7:00pm at MCS.

-Gail Griffin's Benefit Dinner on September 16 from 12:00-4:00 at the American Legion in Mechanic Falls. (Gail is our former Kitchen Manager at MCS. She is currently battling cancer.)

-Fall Harvest Summer sponsored by the Minot Community Club on September 23rd from 5:00-7:00 pm. (Please let us know if you would like to donate a raffle basket.)

-You are invited to attend our Mustang Pride Assembly on September 29th at 2:15pm.



Almost our entire staff took advantage of the opportunity to work with our two BARR trainers who were so impressed with the enthusiasm and participation of our staff during our two day training. Our staff learned so much about the program. Trainers even asked us for our Rollout slideshow material to use as an example for their future trainings!

We could really use...

We are still looking for an Ed. Tech II first grade interventionist. Our first grade classes are large and keep growing. We are trying to replace a last minute resignation. This person will provide academic support in grade 1.

We are also looking for substitutes.

You're Invited:

We have our Panther Pride assembly on October 5th at 9:45.