

Charter Document

Project Team Name: Northern Middle School

District Goal: Continue to raise overall student achievement.

Desired Outcome: The project team will develop a written process outlining the tasks, roles, and functions for the team(s) that will assist in opening a school-within-a-school on the campuses of Northwest Middle and Northeast Middle Schools for 6th graders who will attend Northern Middle School when it opens during the 2006-2007 school year—approximately December 2006. Kernodle 6th graders will not be included in this year's move. These processes should include: hiring staff, ordering curriculum materials, designing extra-curricular clubs, intramurals, textbooks, paper, globes, maps, science equipment, developing bus routes, constructing class schedules for before and after the move, and a communication plan to keep parents informed throughout.

The project team should work with the rising 6th grade students to establish a school mascot and school colors for Northern Middle School. The project team should determine where to house the school-within-a-school students on these two campuses. When Northern Middle opens, the schools-within-schools for the 6th graders, their teachers, and their materials should be able to “pick-up” and move to Northern Middle with minimal problems. The team should frequently meet with Chief Operations Officer Kevin Lear to review Northern Middle floor plans and to be constantly updated on construction progress. Plans should include a timetable for the principal and his staff to visit the feeder elementary schools for Northeast and Northwest Middle School to meet with students and parents of incoming 6th graders.

Suggested Direction: The team might want to review the work of other school districts that have opened schools within the last two to three years. This review might include lists of resources needed, strategies used, etc. The team could review the work of Northern High Principal Joe Yeager and his Project Team.

Time Frame: The Project Team should hold its organizational meeting no later than February 3, 2006. The development of a staffing plan and the development of a curriculum list will be completed by March 15, 2006. The team will meet on a bi-weekly basis during February. The project should be completed by April 15, 2006. Written or oral project update reports will be presented to Dr. Peggy Thompson by noon each Friday.

Resources: The following representatives from various departments will be available as resources: Peggy Thompson, Joe Yeager, Anne Murr, Division of Academic Improvement; Mike Harris, Human Resources; Joe Hill and Kevin Lear, Facilities; Lillie Cox, Curriculum and Instruction. Support staff from DAI will be available to cover communications, etc.

Tools or Processes: The Team should Benchmark the checklists and start-up plans from other school districts, including Wake, Durham, and Charlotte-Mecklenburg. Team members may visit these locations or talk to other school districts that are opening new middle schools.

Decision Authority: Advisory. Core Project Team will meet with Champions bi-weekly to establish progress on specific tasks. The plan will be approved by the Cabinet.

Assigned Members:

Co-Chairs: Drs. Steve Teague -449-5833, teagues@gcsnc.com and Beth Folger-370-8301, folgere@gcsnc.com.

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Sam Misher- 294-7300, mishers@gcsnc.com , Bill Stewart -605-3333, stewarw2@gcsnc.com , Melissa Harrelson-375-2525, harrels2@gcsnc.com , Mike Harris -370-8340, harrism5@gcsnc.com ; Kevin Lear -819-2763, learj@gcsnc.com (or Joe Hill – 819-2763, hillj@gcsnc.com), Valerie Collins -370-2306, collinv@gcsnc.com (or designee), parent representative from both schools (Debbie Mauser from Northwest and Jeff Johnson, jjohnson32@triad.rr.com, from Northeast).

Champion: Peggy Thompson (370-8106, thompsp@gcsnc.com)