**School Improvement Team September 1, 2022**

**Present Absent**

Shirley Reed, Facilitator Tracy Cockrell

Briana Brandon, Interpreter Rachel Hanson

Michele Handley, Guest Melissa Chatman

Linda Harris, Record Minutes

Barbara Coble

Patricia Hart

Brenda Ulrich

Tafie Henson

Fallon DiBlasio

On September 1, 2022, Eastern NC School for the Deaf held the first School Improvement Team meeting for the 2022-2023 school year. Upon arrival, each member received a copy of the current School Improvement Plan based on the ENCSD School Policy and survey questions. First, each member answered survey questions to serve as talking points for discussion during the session. Then, the meeting opened with introductions from the members in attendance.

Principal Reed emphasized that the purpose of the School Improvement Team is to analyze and use data to develop goals and strategies that enhance student learning and teacher/staff working conditions. The SIT also considers methods for corrective accreditation assessment and gives feedback. The current policy plan has been in place since 2017 and must be updated. Mrs. Reed also stressed the importance of each member's 100% commitment and input from all departments within the school. Each member was allowed to give feedback and suggest solutions to concerns. Finally, Mrs. Reed advised the team of their responsibility to establish goals and measurable action plans.

According to the current plan, the team must consist of staff members from the following departments: Academic Teachers, EDAs, Student Life, Food Service, Nursing, Parents, and the Community. In addition, Mrs. Reed asked members to seek community members to serve on the team; currently, there is no community representation. Because the school is small, minor adjustments may be necessary to stay within the policy guidelines as much as possible. Sub-committees will help formulate ideas, plans, and goals.

For the last two years, Instar has been the format used for the School Improvement Plan. However, for the start of 2022 and the next three-to-five-year cycle, ENCSD will transition back to the school and use its resources.

Mrs. Reed acknowledged members who were not present at the meeting with an explanation for their absences. Members who were present agreed unanimously to meet on the first Thursday of each month. A team member asked about the voting process for members of the team. Mrs. Reed responded, "everyone on the committee was voted in, but the team must vote on officer positions." Officers needed are a chairperson to guide the meeting - making sure it is moving in the right direction, and a co-chairperson to follow up, be the timekeeper and follow the action plan and goals.

The survey questions discussed learning ASL, improving morale post-Covid, increasing enrollment, addressing dorm and gym needs, helping students through post-secondary transition, lesson plans, staff development, unified faculty, and support guidance. Some common interests that members would like to discuss as possible goals are student growth and morale. Mrs. Reed proposed that the team consider the recurring recommendations and common interests discovered through the survey responses, develop strategies, and vote. Some members asked if the team could meet twice monthly for the first few months to make necessary progress toward setting and accomplishing goals. The group voted and agreed to meet twice monthly until November cast.

Mrs. Reed stated that each member's name would be added to a ballot to select the SIT Chairperson and Co-Chairperson. Everyone was encouraged to vote by noon the following day and place their ballot in the green box outside the principal's office. The meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.