

Principal Meeting EPPSP Phase I

Date: February 18, 2021

Student Name: Gwen Burke

Name of Principal and Assistant Principal: Rhonda Turner and Kellie Flager (AP)

Summary of Meeting: My principal, assistant principal and I met via Zoom on an eLearning day (due to inclement weather). I began by screen sharing the framework document and talking through the expectations of the program. I reviewed the NELP standards, which she was familiar with, and explained examples of internship hours. I thanked her for her ongoing support and for any opportunities she had to offer.

My principal and assistant principal had already composed a list of things that they believed would be appropriate for me to begin with. They had also brainstormed a list of experiences that other prospective school leaders have requested and completed. Mrs. Turner made it clear that I am welcome to manage groups, opt out of activities, and collaborate with them as much as possible. Overall, I feel as though the meeting went really well.

Reflection: Immediately after the meeting, I felt exhilarated and excited. The fact that they had a list of opportunities in addition to open invitations felt like they have faith in me. While there are some nerves, I also feel motivated to exceed their expectations.

They offered many opportunities to me! Many of them center around assisting with the move to the new building. She acknowledged that there is a slim chance that I will have to experience this on this large of a level, but you never know - she obviously never expected to be doing it now! Under this umbrella, I am going to organize and supervise the instructional aides that have volunteered to stay after school to help pack up materials and supplies. I will also create schedules and organize how the staff will begin to pack up the lounge and other common areas. At the end of the year, she offered to sit down with me and discuss the process - many teachers in our building will not be able to go to the new school because of capacity, and she is in charge of placing that elsewhere in the district. We agreed that it was inappropriate for me to attend individual meetings, but we will debrief this process after the fact.

Additionally, I will be reaching out to the school psychologist to talk through, observe, and support her with identifying a student and taking them through the case conference process. It was offered to me to reach out to our interim principal who is providing support to our principal during the building move process; she is currently conducting observations, and, with teacher permission, I can participate in an observation from start to finish. I will be working with the assistant principal to arrange coverage daily for unfilled absences, meetings, and doctor's appointments. Finally, I can assist with bus duty, help plan professional development, and reach out to the instructional coach for other things I can help her plan and lead. We discussed that I can lead professional development off grade level to gain experience with different people and content.

My principal reflected that telling teachers that they will not be going with us to the new building is the second hardest thing she has had to do in her career - the first being driving a student to meet his dad who would be bearing the news that his mother had died. She recounted playing

Uno with him as though everything was fine, counting the seconds until his life was changed. I was surprised as she shared this with me, but was reminded of the quieter moments that can't always be prepared for. It showed a vulnerability that I wasn't expecting, a tender side to her strong exterior.

Typing it out, this list feels daunting, but I am excited because assisting with these tasks during a pandemic is invaluable experience. Who else will get to say that they managed a team of teachers and IAs during a building wide move, district wide redistricting, and a pandemic?! I find that I have to remind myself of their faith and confidence in me. They would not entrust me with these tasks if they did not believe in my potential as a school leader.