

SUU LEAD School Community Council Activity
Mentor Principal Competency Review

Please copy this template, paste into your Word or Google doc, complete it, get it signed by your Mentor, share with your Internship Coordinator, and upload into Canvas.

Name: **Joseph Wright**
Year & Semester: **2019, Fall Semester**
School in which you interned: **Treeside Elementary Charter School (Provo, Utah)**

Participate in School Community Council meetings including the annual development and evaluation of the School Improvement Plan or the School Trust Land Plan.

Please describe all aspects of the process of your participation in multiple meetings of your school's School Improvement Plan or the School Trust Land Plan. Provide details of your involvement and contributions to your school's School Improvement Plan or the School Trust Land Plan. Review with your Mentor your efforts and activities associated with this artifact. Add to this copy....

- Your description,
- Have your mentor initial after Emerging Effective or Effective below and sign and date,
- Scan this completed, initialed Mentor Evaluation,
- Upload your scanned Mentor Evaluation to the aligned Canvas Assignment.

Description:

8/27/19, 5-6 PM: School Trust Lands Meeting

I attended our first school trust lands meeting today, which involved discussing the School Trust Land Plan. Only one other member attended the meeting, so we were limited in what we could do / discuss. I learned what the requirements are for such funds, and learned about Treeside's Plan from last year. It included the following goals:

1): Raise the DIBELS EOY score from 47% to 67%

Objective 1: Increase the use of data to meet student needs

2): Increase Math proficiency from 29.58% to 47%

Objective 1: Master the basics such as elementary operations and multiplication tables

Objective 2: Increase the use of formative assessments and data analysis

3): Increase ELA score from 30% to 45%

Objective 1: Increase emphasis on reading and writing

Dr. Johnson informed me that Treeseide has already made improvements thus far in this regard, though they have not as of yet met any of these goals, but they have improved in nearly every category. We spent some time discussing how these funds **must** be attached to academic goals, and Dr. Johnson made sure that we understood that point, even mentioning several of the things that are **not allowed** (such as teacher salary, etc.). They created the plan at the end of the school year (April 2019), and Dr. Johnson would like to quicken the pace on that this upcoming year (as would I, since I won't be here post-December. With regards to the goals that SUU requires, we did make an extra effort to note the gap in academic achievement that minorities face both in the state as well as at Treeseide, and we hope that we can make improvements and close those gaps soon enough.

8/27/19: 7-8 PM: Board Meeting:

This was a much better attended meeting, and it went more smoothly. There were about 10 people in attendance, 5 board members, and Dr. Johnson. He is a great public speaker, and I was grateful to be here to participate with him. He knows his stuff, and he is doing a great job obviously as the director here at Treeseide.

As Treeseide went through the process of hiring some new staff, Dr. Johnson explained how they are having a somewhat tough time finding someone who can teach music at the school. He also addressed the issue of retention, and they are a bit down from where they wanted to be. They are looking towards fixing that as much as we can.

He also reported that Treeseide was voted the #1 elementary school in the area! It was an exciting visit, I really enjoyed it!

10/9/19: 6-7 PM: School Community Council Meeting

I was a few minutes late to the meeting, but unfortunately, it appeared that the secretary failed to remind the parents involved of the meeting to be held tonight. So, it was just Dr. Johnson and I. As we waited to see if any parents might show, we talked about how things are going, and I expressed my gratitude to be involved and help as much as I could. I am planning on being involved with the after-school clubs, starting after Fall Break, and I'll be doing a Game Club where the students learn all about games, and what makes them fun.

We chatted briefly about the SUU program requirements, and I let him know what needs I still had to fulfill my SUU requirements. Overall, I think we are in a good place, and I am just glad for all the chances I've been given to work with the fine people here at Treeseide Elementary. Then Dr. Johnson showed me a few of the things that he was working on, including sending over

data to the state regarding the recent RISE testing (which for those who know was an utter disaster this past year). He was taking that data and helping make it useful and palatable for his teachers, and I thought that was an excellent idea, because in the form he received it was simply unintelligible. I think that it is great that he is working so hard to use the data he has to guide instruction at the school, and I'm glad for the chance to be part of the success that is occurring at Treeside.

We looked over the School Improvement Plan, which the board and Dr. Johnson had come up with, and the main goals there to improve the school. Namely, (1) raise the DIBELS EOY score from 47% to 67%; (2) increase math proficiency (according to RISE) from 29.58% to 47%; (3) increase science proficiency from 25% to 45%; (4) increase ELA scores from 30% to 45%; and finally (5), implement the Academi element of MTSS. Dr. Johnson also explained to me how the 2nd School Community Council Meeting (the one I couldn't attend, unfortunately) was quite productive, unlike the 2 that I've been to. They figured out some main things they wanted to address, like family engagement, school safety, wellness, academic improvement, school climate, etc., and the plan was to narrow these down. Sadly, that will have to happen another day (perhaps next week, and I'll do my best to attend that meeting)

Overall, I enjoyed the chance to meet with Dr. Johnson, though the meeting didn't go according to plan. I believe the remainder of this internship will be most worthwhile! Up and onward!

10/22/19: 5-6 PM - School Trust Lands Meeting

Today we met to discuss plans for the Trust Lands funds. We discussed the plans made last time the Trust Lands Committee met (I wasn't able to attend), and they talked about the data that shows we have some work to do (although there are some things, like Math, that went down). English Language Arts / ELA went up, from 30 to 43% proficient. Math, as mentioned, dropped a bit (1%). The priority then is to get Math up more. The DIBELS scores (reading scores) went from 47% to 64%. Most things, besides Math, are going well.

Of course, the RISE test was a mess last year, so that is a part of the answer (perhaps), but we are needing help there. One parent suggested that we need to utilize the tech that we already have, and provide a better diagnostic of what is going on there.

Another issue is identifying who may need an IEP / 504 to assist them. We also need to ask the teachers why they believe that this happened. Asking both the teachers and the parents can offer some help there. They did recently change the math program / curriculum that they are using, which may be part of it as well (from Saxon Math to Go Math).

Anyway, the question of how to spend the \$56k that they have is still up in the air, but that will be decided in a future meeting, and the parents involved were asked to think of ideas and ways, along with input from the parents as well.

10/22/19: 6-7 PM - School Board Meeting

Today we met and Dr. Johnson gave a Director's Report. Attendance is at 93%, which is better than last year at this time. Enrollment is at 457, and that is a good thing. We also looked at the most recent assessment data, and it is Dr. Johnson's info, since the RISE testing was a bit messy.

In DIBELS, the proficiency scores went up. We reviewed some of the same info that we looked at in the Trust Lands Meeting. For instance, they decided to swap the math curriculum for something that was better aligned to Utah state standards. That should help with the low math #s. Trust land money was used last year to help get diagnostic data and such for the students to utilize.

We also spent some serious time discussing the 4H involvement at Treeside, and it was readily accepted by most of the parents / board. Lots of things are going on. Parent-Teacher Conference is happening this week as well, so it is a good time to be at Treeside!

Also, it was noted that Comcast donated some funds to the school, used to increase teacher benefits. They then moved into a closed session, which seems to be common for them, which is interesting to me.

11/26/19: 4:30-5:30 PM - School Trust Lands Meeting

(Rescheduled)

Overall Reflection:

Of all the capstones that I have completed this year, this is one that has been probably the most challenging for me. This area is one that I would like to get more experience with, and due to the infrequent nature of their meetings, I feel like there is a lot of experience and discussion that I haven't yet received which would help me feel like I am adequately versed on this topic. I attended as many of the meetings as I feasibly could (several were cancelled and / or rescheduled, unfortunately), but I would personally like to see more examples of school community council and trust lands work in other settings. It isn't something that is a priority at our school (Merit), at least, to involve the general public. The Merit school board has basically taken that role upon themselves, and I think that is a bit of a disservice, because there are plenty

of well-educated and involved parents and other community members which I believe could do a lot of good for our school if given the chance.

Treeside in that way does a better job than we do. However, while I am obviously a neophyte in the administrative sense, and have much to learn, I believe that this is one area I'll be making a priority to learn more about as I move forward. I'll probably ask some other local schools how they do it, and if I might observe how they engage in making better School Improvement Plans, etc. I'm interested to see how this is prioritized at other nearby schools, and I hope that by getting thus involved, I might learn how to better make such a priority at my own current (and potentially future) schools.

Total hours engaged in the completion of this artifact: 6

[Utah Educational Leadership Standards - 2018](#) - Standard 4.2

| * Required for Recommendation for Licensure * | |
|---|---|
| Emerging Effective _____ | Effective ___xx__ |
| Sought to create and sustain positive, collaborative, and productive relationships with families and the community. | Create and sustain positive, collaborative, and productive relationships with families and the community. |
| <p>Comments: Joseph got to see the ups and downs of the parent and community engagement process. He was conscientious about his attendance, even when the meeting did not occur.</p> | |
| Mentor Name, Signature and Date Below: | |
| Mentor Name: Benjamin Johnson, Ed.D. | Mentor's School: Treeside Charter School |
| Mentor's Signature:  | Date: <i>12/10/19</i> |

