Dear Board of Directors,

This month, I’d like to start with a short narrative describing what I saw in one of our classrooms this week. At trapezoid and kidney shaped tables, two small groups are working using math manipulatives, solving problems with support from the classroom teacher. Another group of three are stretched out on a rug area with paper, pencil, dice, workbooks and quiet conversation. At individual tables four additional students are engaged in math games on chrome books and occasionally raising hands to ask for help. A learning coach is going from group to group connecting and checking in on how each student is doing.

This calm, focused work, thoughtfully differentiated for individual skill level and scheduled appropriately for the student’s attention span, is what I expect to see in public elementary school during academic times. At Westshire, we are doing this at each grade level. We have strengths that can be built upon.

This year, my foremost agenda is to:

1. Stabilize (provide a dependable and consistent environment)
2. Identify what we have, that we can build upon (our strengths)
3. Identify and prioritize areas for future growth

Here are some current highlights to give you a sense of what we are up to.

- Weekly all school meetings with singing, announcements and interviews. Students are now learning to lead these. See video, I’d like to share if possible (4 minutes). [https://youtu.be/eJ7p9GtigQ0](https://youtu.be/eJ7p9GtigQ0)
- Playground and recess improvements, in process.
- Defining schoolwide expectations in all areas.
- Regular school communication to families.
- Increase in grade level teams working together, sharing resources, and connecting classes.
- 1st and 2nd grade classes are going on shared field trips as part of a mini unit with teachers collaborating.
- Partnership with Montshire Museum focused on improving science curriculum.
- Partnership with Hood Museum with 2nd grade class visits focused on the arts.
- Filled open Learning Coach position, James Fein is starting 11-4-19
- Our preschool director completed two required filings for Preschool (STARs application, Program license application)

Best Regards,

Melissa Zoerheide

Principal, Westshire Elementary School