

LYNDALE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
PTO Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2016

GUEST SPEAKER:

Eric Moore, Director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment, Minneapolis Public Schools

Mr. Eric Moore, from the Minneapolis Public School district, reviewed Lyndale's MCA test results (grades 3, 4 and 5).

MATH – Lyndale had its lowest number of students proficient in math in 2012, which was right after the standards changed. Since then, the school has shown pretty consistent growth. Below is the percentage of students proficient in math according to MCA results at Lyndale:

	2012	2013	2014	2015
3rd grade	45%	42%	62%	54%
4th grade	48%	51%	52%	65%
5th grade	24%	41%	48%	46%

This chart compares Lyndale scores with district wide performance in 2014 and 2015. Note that Lyndale is above district proficiency levels in each grade:

	2014 Lyndale	2014 District	2015 Lyndale	2015 District
3rd grade	62%	53%	54%	52%
4th grade	52%	49%	65%	53%
5th grade	48%	47%	46%	45%

READING – The district changed reading standards in 2013 which resulted in lower scores in 2013 and 2014. By 2015 Lyndale's proficiency levels were above district levels in 3rd and 4th grades.

	2012	2013	2014	2015
3rd grade	64%	31%	46%	48%
4th grade	55%	40%	30%	49%
5th grade	54%	37%	39%	28%

	2014 Lyndale	2014 District	2015 Lyndale	2015 District
3rd grade	46%	41%	48%	42%
4th grade	30%	39%	49%	41%
5th grade	39%	49%	28%	48%

The achievement gap at Lyndale is 35% compared to 55% district wide. In Math, Lyndale is showing positive progression towards reducing the achievement gap with Black, Hispanic, FRP, and LEP students. 2013 and 2014 were very good for Special students, but 2015 did not reach set goals. Lyndale continues to work to decrease the gap in Reading. Prior to the standards changing Lyndale was mostly showing positive advancement but has been growing more slowly since then.

Mr. Moore repeatedly complimented Lyndale on its continued growth. Comparing schools merely on test scores can be misleading. For example, we can assume that a school with fewer ESL students would have higher test scores. If those scores remain constant and do not show growth, students are not being challenged to progress. If a school has low test scores due to a high number of specific needs students but is showing continued growth, it is evidence of successful teaching.

Mr. Moore talked about cultural bias in testing. As an example, he explained that what most northerners refer to as tadpole is referred to as a pollywog in the south. If Minnesotans were tested we would be more apt to answer a question regarding pollywogs incorrectly because we are not culturally aware of the reference. The district has worked very hard to remove cultural bias from standardize testing. While cultural bias is often cited as a reason someone may opt-out of taking a test, it is no longer considered a valid concern.

Moore also talked about test anxiety and how chemical reactions to stress can actually block one's access to memory. Thus, the schools have been working on how to make test taking as stress-free as possible.

A participant asked why parents are allowed to opt out of testing. Some parents believe that taking the test does not support student learning, however, Moore explained that without it the district cannot as clearly recognize what resources a school needs. South High, with 80% of students opting out of test taking, shows a 25% proficient rate, much lower than if all students would participate.

The complete report is available at [Insights.mpls.k12.mn.us/schoolboardportal/](https://insights.mpls.k12.mn.us/schoolboardportal/)

MURAL

After extensive periods of school and community input on design, the Lyndale mural is underway! The under-painting is being done by students during art class and after school classes. The mural theme – the wonder of learning and play – is represented using Lyndale school colors and complimentary colors. Upcoming painting events include:

Saturday, May 21 – 11am-1pm

Community Paint and Plant the Garden Party at Lyndale School
We will paint the Mural, help plant the Youth Farm garden and enjoy Live Music and Youth Farm Food.

Wednesday, May 25 – 5-7pm

Concert and Community Paint Party at Painter Park
Come out for the music and help us finish the mural at this Wednesday evening Concert in the Park sponsored by the Lyndale Neighborhood Association.

For photos and updated information visit <https://lyndalemuralproject.wordpress.com/>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

5th Grade Recognition

Seeking 4th grade families to help with the 5th grade recognition event on Monday, June 6. Volunteers needed from 12:30 – 3:00. If available contact Christine Daves christinesddaves@gmail.com.

Teacher Appreciation Day

Looking for volunteers to help with Teacher Appreciation Day, Friday, May 3. The PTO provides breakfast and lunch to faculty and staff and draws names for gift cards. Volunteers are needed to solicit donations and help on the day of. Contact LyndalePTO@gmail.com to help out!

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 10, 6:00 PM – 7:15 PM. All are welcome!

Minutes prepared by Christine Daves, PTO Secretary and mom to Elliot (4th grade).