

# New Upton Elementary Principal Hits the Ground Running

By Assistant Publisher/Editor  
Nick Trandahl

With Wyoming school performance ratings recently published, it was revealed that Upton Elementary School wasn't meeting expectations in the 2022-2023 school year, and hadn't for several years before. With the recent hiring of Cliff Toole as Upton Elementary/Middle School Principal and his conversation with the Weston County School District No. 7 (WCSD7) Trustees on Wednesday evening, September 13th, it is apparent that he means to improve the elementary school's performance rating.

Kicking things off in his talk with the school board, Principal Toole explained that they had screened all the students within the first two weeks to identify where there may be gaps in each student's abilities. "And then we hit the ground running with intervention," he stated. He also added that the faculty is making a commitment as a staff at developing a basic set of skills for students to possess by the end of the school year. "There's an

urgency to collect student data frequently to address gaps."

"We're also asking teachers to do in-house peer observation," Principal Toole told the WCSD7 Trustees, stressing the importance of Professional Learning Community (PLC) work, in which staff will have time built into their schedule to meet weekly to focus on their collective commitment to one another as a faculty.

Principal Toole continued by explaining that all students will learn at high levels, with a focus on results and evidence of learning. "We're getting students to work hard and chase perfection each day. Even if they're unsuccessful, we want to make sure they're at least shooting for a 100%," he remarked. Tying in with that, he further explained that the school is working with the PTO to develop a "Best Effort Ticket" program, which will reward students for giving their best effort toward a task, even if they're unsuccessful.

Principal Toole described the focus of Upton Elementary and Middle School as "relentless".