

SCC meeting Dec 14, 2016

In attendance:

Karin Brown

Mr. Stewart

Liz Gibby

Lisa Swenson

Mindy Carlson

Christy Jepson

Excuse: Shellie Baertsch

Mr. Stewart would like to take us on a field trip to classrooms. Some teachers are nervous about observations so we will attempt to be discreet. Don't make eye contact with students.

Approval of Minutes from last meeting (10/18) Karin approve, Liz 2nd

Improvement plan from last year - no announcements throughout the day or excessive assemblies and 6<sup>th</sup> grade assembly set up and take down. Cut those activities to increase classroom time. Last year older kids were even coloring with crayons in classroom. Uncool. Plan this year for teachers to observe each other and improve. (Team leads observe other teachers, other teachers observe team leads) They thought it would take the whole year to implement but by November has become an efficient program. Now working on collaborative time to make it more productive. PLCs professional learning communities. Sent principals to Virginia to learn from schools. Going again in January. Focus on teacher efficiency. Reducing work outside non-contract hours. Looking at data to identify best practices.

4<sup>th</sup> grade team meets after school on Thursdays, most collaborative teams meet on Mondays. Using grant money to meet in collaborative sessions during the day. 1 hour for the teachers to work together to figure out best practices for the week. 3-4 subjects in 1 hour. In Virginia they meet 4 hours a week with a teacher coach and collaborative groups!

Adjust specialty schedule? Hired dance teacher to give additional half hour to teachers. Half day collaborations. Half day collaborations require a bank of substitute teachers to allow grades to collaborate once a month. (twice a year?)

Looking for ways to better organize the school. Still dealing with educational lottery so students' performance can be based on what teacher student gets. Trying to mitigate the effects of the educational lottery.

The goal in observing classrooms is what are the kids doing? Are they talking? Are they sharing? Are they actively learning? The purpose of observing is not to see what is great. But let's see what they can improve. Ideally they are working together and collaborating in groups. Some were interacting a ton, some none at all. The idea is to work and interact and learn together.

Brief review of test scores: "We are not doing well in anything." jk jk We are doing OK. We should be doing better than we are. In math we're right on par with district. (Which isn't stellar) In language we're slightly below. Science, we're slightly above. We are average but we need to do better. Vista is lowest in language arts. WAY underperforming demographics. Is our school contributing to that?

Speaking of language arts, no writing homework has ever come home. Why is that? Why is there never any writing homework? How does Spanish immersion affect this? Is there less emphasis on writing because of the language? They are also underperforming in math. Teachers have noticed and are beginning to focus on that.

Going over sage scores - Average scores have gone up for language scores the past few years but overall, average scores are flat-lining. Underperforming. Nothing has changed. Year after year. What can change?

Do teachers still have to go to classes to keep their certifications? Yes but they are not the best resources. The best option is local training from the district and working together to train together. Instructional coaches in the district are also a good resource. We are below average in language arts and then way below in writing. Informational text and comprehension are well below.

Are there schools in the state that are considered to be doing well? Yes Canyons and Jordan but it depends on how you look at the data and what data sets you are looking at.

What is the best way to support teachers to get student improvement - REAL improvement. There is an option to help kids do better on tests through certain programs. We don't want to do that. Teaching to tests is not sustainable. It's harder for kids because they don't actually learn anything. Not improving school when outsourcing the solution. Last year we had 11 new teachers, which killed us. This year we only have three. We don't want to depend on a program or the individual teacher but develop a culture where we're all learning from each other. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is really efficient and they are doing well collaborating. 4<sup>th</sup> grade is getting there. There are unintended consequences when collaboration is a priority, like people want to come teach here because they work well together.

Lexia is an instructive program that can help with targeted additional intervention to help support the students in their learning. Raz Kids is also used. Programs are good, but teacher collaboration is most important, more time to see each other, and going and observing effective teachers in other schools.

Bus duty or recess.. Some districts push really hard so teachers don't have to do that. It's 15 min before school 15 min at recess. Little thing to give teachers more time. Used to be teacher would be on deck all week. Now they only have 15 min. per week of duty time.

How can we facilitate more teacher collaboration? Can specialty classes be longer? It makes a huge difference for teachers. Right now specialty time is personal prep time. Not necessarily collaborative time. Only time is Monday after school for 1 hour. Kills Mr. Stewart. He wants them to figure out how to get at least one more hour so they can have one hour for language and one hour for math every week. Half-day collaboration is sort of a pain, but it only happens twice per year.

Did new people get the email about the district training for SCC? Is it really 4-8pm? Thursday, Jan 12 at Highland High School - panels from other schools, how to be more effective as a community council. Good way to gather information on what other schools/districts are doing.

Community input - Mr. Stewart wants to hear concerns! Negative too! How can we improve?

We need to WANT to change. How do we get parents to WANT to change? Mr. Stewart feels like the teachers are now on board.

Motion to Adjourn: Karin, 2<sup>nd</sup> everyone.