

School Community Council Minutes – January 17, 2017

In attendance:

Mindy Carlson

Karin Brown

Christy Jepson

Lisa Swenson

Mr. Stewart

Liz Gibby

Kerri Ann Sabey

Excused: Shellie Baertsch

Motion to approve minutes from last meeting: Christy, 2nd Mindy

Teacher Collaboration:

Mr. Stewart talked about collaboration (continued from last meeting). Collaboration needs to be efficient and effective. They need structure in the collaborative model. It will save time at home, because when teachers have to take work home, they get burned out easily. Collaboration needs to be efficient first and effective second. We don't have problems with teacher talent. All of our teachers are talented. Collaborative time is spent going over lesson plans, data analysis, identifying needs and kid talk – where individual students are discussed on a case by case basis.

Tier 1 – instruction for all students. Tier 2 – instruction in small groups. Tier 3 – 1 on 1 interventions/special education. How do we make tier 1 instruction more effective so teachers don't have to spend so much time on tier 2/3? Teachers can learn from each other to make tier 1 more effective by sharing what works for them and picking the best practice. Teams must build a collaborative setting where they discuss everything in their collaborative time. As more kids get captured in tier 1, there will be less time in tier 2 and more time for collaborative time. Collaborative time is tight and valuable. We need 2 hours a week and we don't have that.

Mr. Stewart just spent last week showing administrators from Alpine School District around some of the successful schools in Fairfax, VA where he used to work. They observed how schools work and their collaborative models. Ultimately, the big message is YES! Schools can do it on their own, but without district support, it's not likely to be successful. A big thing is to minimize false starts, where schools begin a program but it's not sustainable.

Spanish Immersion transition to middle school:

Spanish Immersion kids are not being placed where they should be/have been told they would be placed at Vista Heights and Westlake. We want to reach out to Spanish teachers at Vista Heights and have them come observe/talk to our 6th grade classes. We want to show them that the Spanish Immersion kids are actually immersed in Spanish for half of the day. We want to have better communication between 6th and

7th grade. Mr. Stewart will talk to Mr. Smithee and also invite Vista Height principal to La Fiesta and build relationship from there.

Hiring:

We'll be hiring someone for next year, but they will start this year. This way they are acclimated to the school and ready to fill a position next year if/when there is an opening. We anticipate at least one. Alpine School District just opened 4 positions at selected schools. Mr. Stewart knows of people that want to teach at Harvest, but are not willing to break their contract. We already have lots of work for them to do, such as subbing, helping with small groups.

Performance Growth and Reports:

SAGE reports – the goal is to get parents kind of upset so they will want to do better. We need to be able to compare students in the same grade. SAGE reports are available on Skyward under Portfolio. Not many people know about it. Unfortunately the attitude is that the scores don't matter.

Using data, our school is going DOWN in proficiency. It's awful stuff. We aren't even average in proficiency. We need to be proficient in SAGE – we don't want to teach for a test, but SAGE models proficiency in common core and is reflective of performance in grade levels. We need to identify schools that are doing better and then find out what they are doing so we can all do better. Collaborative groups of schools in the district – model needs to be sustainable (absolutely, but need additional time for planning), scalable (definitely, with district and school clusters), reproducible (yes! one idea is to get teachers together for fair collaboration – open mic style)

Reports – How do we get parents upset about them? Show parents our scores in comparison to other schools. We should be doing better than we are according to our demographic.

Motion to adjourn – Liz, 2nd Mindy.

Next meeting – February 15, 9:30am