

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING

10:00 a.m.

October 22, 2015

District Office

Members Present: Stuart Long, Janelle Liermann

Others Present: Deb Sixel, Corey Baumgartner, Chad Ramminger, Louise Blankenheim, Sheila Lefeber, Dawn Mueller

Call to Order Meeting called to order at 10:04 a.m.

PLC Overview Dr. Blankenheim provided an overview of the Professional Learning Communities (PLC). She shared that the district has been utilizing PLC's for five years. Teachers are setting goals, learning what to look for such as grade/content level as well as reviewing data, and setting standards, so that they can help those students who are struggling as well as providing enrichment for those students who already know the material.

Dr. Sixel reviewed the Smartgoal worksheet showing the district goal followed by the school goal. Collaboration time is used to review goals and data. Staff continues to learn how to work as interdependent teams. She referenced how the middle school reviewed the Google Slides presentation, "Launching a Successful PLC." This presentation was also shared with curriculum board members via Google so that they would have further understanding of the PLC process.

Mrs. Mueller explained that the formative assessments must align to standards with learning targets following the formative assessment.

PLC is a culture and sending staff to the PLC institute is PIVATOL . Curriculum members were encouraged to consider attending the institute. It takes a minimum of five years to get good at the PLC process and get everyone on the same bus.

The high school is still working on their school goal and their building is structured by departments. The high school is currently in year three of the PLC Grant process. Mr. Baumgartner shared that the time that has been allocated for PLC is so critical to the process. He noted that many districts are jealous of our time.

The Middle School does both vertical (content) and grade level work. Dr. Sixel surveyed her staff about the PLC process and will re-evaluate again at the end of the year. If a staff member has rated their team as 1-2 they need to determine what they are going to do to better. This is critical to getting high achieving students. It is also important to make sure that students understand how they are going to be judged on assessments.

Dr. Blankenheim shared that elective groups at the high school and middle school are utilizing their time reaching out to local businesses.

How is this process impacting students? It's more about personalized learning and how student needs are being addressed on both the high and low ends. Students have a better understanding of their own needs through this process.

Are kids asking for help or is this teacher driven? It's both mandatory and voluntary. At the high school some things needed to be put into place, such as the math resource room. More is being expected of kids today. We are challenging them by setting goals, working independently as well as in teams. Interventions are no longer considered a life sentence. They are supports for those students who need them. Utilizing this process provides teachers the ability to try things. As a district we need to figure out how to communicate this to parents. This is an attitude change for students and teachers. Another key component to student learning is the relationships that teachers build with students.

Member Long mentioned that it's about doing the right things with the time. It is a change in mindset for every teacher at every level as well as increased accountability. Everyone is learning at the same time.

The discussion then revolved around PLC and the socio/emotional side. Elementary currently holds Monday afternoon meetings utilizing Super Flex and friendship bridges building wide.

There are some barriers at the high school that need to be addressed. Tribes training (substance and drug abuse, etc) is one step. This will bring out the energizers, learning to share out and providing one advocate for each student. This training will be held on opening day of deer hunting. Amerequip wants to be more involved and has provided \$10,000 now and will solicit other businesses for the additional \$20,000 by Christmas. This training is about families and not just students. Mr. Baumgartner is in the process of soliciting funds from other resources. He is currently working with Aurora to set up a Family Assistance Program where families in need can have an appointment

scheduled with 72 hours of calling (families are provided up to three 3 free sessions).

There is a common theme with student problems and students/families not knowing where to go for help.

The middle school does a Character Counts program on Wednesday that provides reinforcement of the behavior program- being responsible, respectful, safe, and healthy. The teachers have had professional development on fixed and growth mindsets during their building PLC. Students will also take part in fixed and growth mindset work during character counts. Teachers are encouraged to use this practice and philosophy throughout the year to help students create a growth mindset.

Dr. Sixel thanked the board members for the additional guidance counselor to help with anxiety and stress issues in students which are being expressed by parents as well as behavioral and mental health issues.

Act 55

Dr. Blankenheim reviewed the list of law changes in education based upon Act 55. Below are the impacts:

- District standards must be board approved and a notice sent to parents by January 31st
 - Send to board in December with 1st and 2nd readings at January meetings
- Wisconsin Private Choice Program
 - District required to pay for those students attending a parochial school under this program
- Civics test
 - Students required to answer 60 out of 100 questions correctly
 - Special ed students must take, but do not have to pass
 - Take as many times as necessary
 - No guidance from DPI
 - Districts determine how to test
- Open Enrollment for special ed students will be \$12,000
 - Can no longer deny for undue financial burden
- No fall testing
- Determine how to communicate all of the notices, etc to parents/community:
 - Need to send additional information, not just what's required
 - Paper
 - Website
 - Skyward

- Mailings
- Newsletter

Next Meeting

Dr. Blankenheim shared a request from Member Runge about the math program at the elementary level. Concerns expressed to him included difficulties for parents to help. Worksheets and staff to better explain.

The next meeting will be held on December 10th at 8:00 a.m. and the agenda will include Math and NGSS standards

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.