

Director of Curriculum & Instruction BOE Report for 2015-16

Building/Administrator: M. Stevenson

Date of Meeting: 1/12/16

Student Achievement:

Leverage Leadership: visits continue and recommendations continue to be both well-received and implemented. Great conversations about instruction and the classroom environment continue.

Understanding Poverty: Hank and Yvonne will meet with each building admin. team on Jan. 12th to go over the status of their school improvement plan, as it relates to the Framework for Understanding Poverty work that each building has been doing thus far in the year. They will use a process with each team to determine next steps, and the timeline for those steps.

School-Based Inquiry Process: CSDC members are gathering information from their constituents regarding the data they will be reviewing on the Feb. 12th early release day. Some staff will be looking at interim assessment data, others will be analyzing data from midterms, mid- or end-of-module assessments, and other types of assessments. There is no “formal” PD that day, as staff will be actively using the process they have been trained to use.

Professional Development:

Book studies with CSDC and admin. team continue. CSDC is reading a book titled Reaching and Teaching Children Who Hurt, which is about working with students who have experienced trauma in their life. The most recent chapter was about how family violence impacts students’ language and memory skills. The groups had a lively discussion around how this relates to the students in our district and the connection to the work we are doing to be more culturally responsive to students who come to us from poverty.

We are continuing to work with 2 coaches from BOCES, Tammy Jones and Betsy Serapilio-Frank. Tammy is working with the middle school co-teaching teams around differentiation and Betsy is working with both elementary and middle school ELA teachers around their implementation of the modules. Tammy observes teacher teams in classrooms and makes recommendations regarding how to structure lessons, and best reduce the student to teacher ratio. She also consults with teachers around differentiation of instruction and meeting individual student needs. Betsy provided professional development for the 5th and 6th grade teams at the middle school this week around writing and how to create a community of writers in the classroom. Part of the PD included looking at the writing standards vertically, e.g. 5th grade looked at the same standard in grades 4, 5, so they could see what came before them and what is coming after.

Grants:

We have received a new grant through LEAF (Leadership for Educational Achievement Foundation) and a small team of teachers and administrators will be going to Saratoga in February for the first convening of the grant. The grant is focused on knowledge management, whereby districts purposefully share best practices and strategies for improving student achievement, professional development, and communications.

APPR:

The team met on Dec. 23rd for negotiations. There will be a subgroup doing some work this week around the observation process. Negotiations must continue, despite the many questions that we have due to the changes at the state level.