

Middle Level Principals Meeting Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Précis

Updates

- SED [Update](#)
- Social Studies Modular Framework draft will be voted on by the Board of Regents during the April meeting.
 - Reorganization of grade 4 and incorporation of flexibility for local content, including Native American groups.
 - Inclusion of more constitutional principles and references to cases in United States History and Government, to strengthen the civics/citizenship elements of the course.
 - Reorganization of Economics, with more economic theory clearly articulated, while maintaining the personal finance unit.
 - Global History and Geography II (Grade 10) a new Regents examination will come at the conclusion of the second year. The earliest version of the new test will be June 2018.
 - SED will provide a Field Guide that incorporates recommendations and other implementation strategies. The Field Guide will begin with an overview of the purpose of the social studies framework and will introduce the shifts in social studies instruction.
- The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) feedback was considered by the Board of Regents. No action was taken. It seems like we will eventually have new science standards but whether or not they are the NGSS remains undetermined. While most groups like NGSS, secondary science teachers do not want to change.
- School Report Cards are changing. They are using a soft launch because there are no new data there. The goal is to not have a major school report card release, but to have the data released as it becomes available.
- The regulations about school counseling and school counselors have not been significantly revisited since the 1960s.
- The Safe Schools Task Force report is scheduled to be presented to the Board of Regents at their June meeting. The report includes recommendations for:
 - School Culture and Student Engagement
 - School Safety Reporting and Data Use
 - Building Security and Infrastructure

Meeting Topics

- **APPR implementation**
 - The Study Council is looking to expand the Research, Development and Dissemination Project.
 - Current project is focused on discussions with parents
 - Looking to expand project to incorporate growth and accountability conversations with teachers during the APPR evaluation process.
 - Looking to initially target pre-service administrators and then will expand to relatively new school administrators.
 - Attempting to develop scripts for retired teachers and administrators that will play the roles of teachers in the growth conversation scenarios.

- Researchers are looking for volunteers to help in the development of scenarios.
- This project is based on Ben Dodger's work.
- Feedback provided by middle school principals
 - Team pre-service administrators to simulate collegial relationships to get advice/ council.
 - Elementary principals that have participated in the current project stated there was a need for more elementary situations. These individuals indicated many of the secondary situations had little relevance on their current work.
- **3-8 Assessment Issues**
 - "How are you responding to Opting Out?
 - F-M has adopted a district-wide approach
 - Sending home a parent letter
 - Providing a separate location during the testing periods. There will be no direct instruction. Students may use the time to read.
 - Currently have 6 students that have provided written documentation of opting out of state testing.
 - Chittenango, Onondaga and ESM are going to be doing something similar to the process F-M outlined.
 - Liverpool indicated they have not had any communication with parents.
 - Last year, some students that decided to opt out of state testing entered late after the testing periods.
 - Westhill
 - A letter crafted by the superintendent was sent home. The district has received a form letter from a few parents.
 - Parents have not been reading/understanding everything in those form letters.
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- **Math Acceleration (and Double-Testing)**
 - Reminder about the next Networking Session on April 2nd, in the Science Center Conference Room from 1 to 3 PM. Part of the session will be focusing on graphic organizers and pictorial representations used in lower grades. This topic was requested at the last session in March.
 - Principals discussed who was going to give both exams for accelerated students.
- **Regional Vision for PBL and New Tech Network Schools**
 - Here is the [link](#) to arrange a visit to Tech Valley High School
 - Copies of School Success and PBL School rubric
 - Innovation Tech at the Career Academy (Career Academy change)
 - Open House April 9th, 6-8pm
 - [website](#)

Future meetings (and locations)

May 28, 2014, Center Conference Room, Administration Building, Henry Campus