

Elementary Principals Meeting Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Précis

Updates

- SED Update: [January](#) [February](#)

Meeting Topics

- **Revisiting Retention Research and practices**
 - Review the research
 - [The Scarring Effects of Primary-Grade Retention?](#) A Study of Cumulative Advantage in the Educational Career
 - [Hechinger Report](#)
 - [Is Retaining Students in the Early Grades Self-Defeating?](#)
 - Resource [collection](#)
 - Share practices
 - Jamesville Dewitt- Policy that says that any retention candidates must be presented to principal in April. Ultimately, it is the decision of the principal (applicable to the Director of Pupil Services). Have had very few.
 - Westhill- Doesn't have a district policy. Generally hesitant to retain. It has often been special education students who might be in school until they are 21.
 - Homer- Without having a policy in place, they have been working to enact a consistent approach. It is the principal's decision, but parents have traditionally had the ability to override the decision once.
 - Fabius-Pompey- Does not have a policy. The principal decides. Sometimes sees that parents have been threatening retention as a punishment and looking to the school to back up that threat. When done, it has usually been at Kindergarten or 1st grade. When it is being considered, a team is convened, including the parents, to analyze the situation.
 - DeRuyter- No policy, not that having a policy is necessarily helpful (it can be restrictive). A student study team considers the situation and works to dig down to see what gaps there might be. They try to consider only children who exhibit a significant social development delay.
 - Cincinnatus- In the past, teachers had been making the decisions, but this is changing. A child study team approach has been explored. Often, the parents' final request is honored. They have observed the impact that a good system of RTI can have. The right timely interventions can make a difference.
 - Cortland- There is a policy that has forms to use. Light retention scale is used with a study team. Parents have the final say in grades K-3, but that decision point comes at the end of a long-term, thorough team approach. In grades 4-6 the decision is the district's. The principals of all of the elementary schools also consider each situation.
- **Regional Vision and Project Based learning**
 - [Innovation Tech](#) is up and running
 - We are looking for an alternative location for New Tech High School Cortland

- [PBLNY 2015](#) is August 3-5, 2015, registration will go up very soon
 - Registration is now open for additional PBL 101 cohorts, including [April](#) and [May](#).
 - A series of sessions designed for administrators in schools where Project-Based Learning is being implemented or where such an approach is being considered. Registration for each session is separate so you can select to attend one, two or all three sessions. PBL 401: [Bringing PBL to Scale](#) is March 31st; PBL 402: [Creating a Supportive PBL School Culture](#) is April 2nd; and PBL 403: [Teacher Evaluation in a PBL Classroom](#) is April 17th.
- **Meeting Planning**
 - May meeting topic: Social Emotional Learning
 - Attentional issues?
 - What strategies have proved effective?
 - Anxiety
- **Roundtable**
 - Fabius-Pompey is having Jessica Minahan come to talk about student anxieties on March 20th. She wrote a book called [The Behavior Code](#). She is an advocate through FBAs and BIPs. [Here is an article she wrote](#).
 - Cursive Writing?
 - Cortland: 3 and 4
 - Fabius-Pompey: 3 and 4
 - DeRuyter: yes, but less so than the past
 - Homer: lots of discussion and of 2 and 3
 - Westhill: would like to eliminate, now doing per week in 3rd
 - JD: at end of 2 and 3, developed guidelines and that guided the discussion
 - Keyboarding
 - Westhill: looking for time in the day to do that
 - DeRuyter: keyboards is integrated into classes

Future meetings (and locations)

- Thursday, May 7, 2015, Center Conference Room, Henry Campus
- Possible meeting topics for next year: opting out/test refusal.

Will try an elementary principals meeting for the southern part of the BOCES on March 16th, 9a, in McEvoy 701. The agenda for the meeting will be to discuss whether we want to continue to have a separate meeting (and how it might work) as well as roundtable time.