

Discussion Team Meeting Notes
November 2, 2015

Old Business

1. Compliments/appreciation/reflection on old business items
 - a. The increased flexibility of scheduling Parent/Teacher Conferences this fall was greatly appreciated by many. One area to keep in mind for next year is greater coordination of Resource/Gen Ed. Conferences, so the schedule isn't a hardship for Resource teachers.
 - b. Teachers are appreciative that in both Dr. Bourff's faculty presentations and the Technology Listening Tour stops, HSE Administration is asking teachers for input and participation in making significant District decisions.
 - c. Several schools noted that the October PD held prior to Fall Break offered flexibility and content that was very useful.

2. Elementary class coverage/sub shortage suggestions
 - a. Because AESOP allows potential subs to schedule dates, some buildings have had greater success with filling spots when secretaries contact potential subs by phone and ask for their help.
 - b. The contract agreed upon for the 2015-16 year added language to provide compensation to elementary teachers who volunteer to cover a class during their prep (similar to existing language for secondary teachers). However, elementary class coverage continues to be managed by dividing students among a grade level team. All recognized the potential challenges of elementary teachers covering classes by preps and being able to cover a full day in this way. It was suggested that elementary discussion teams have conversations about when/how coverage could happen during teacher preps.

New Business

1. Technology items
 - a. **Listening Tour update:**
 - i. Good turn out at sessions with wide representation of buildings.
 - ii. Mac v. PC- Feedback was very divided, but teachers may have an opportunity to select their platform rather than a single device/platform for all teachers in the district.
 - iii. Many teachers seem to prefer a laptop over a desktop.
 - iv. Concerns shared: need for teachers to have greater administrator rights on devices, increase of tech support at elementary buildings, more integration support needed, a desire to receive devices and training well in advance of the start of the 2016-17 school year.
 - v. For teachers to explore options, a single location will be set up with multiple devices. Before and after school times will be available, so

teachers can be informed before being asked to state a preference. This “expo week” is anticipated to take place before Thanksgiving, so information will be out soon.

- b. **Clarification regarding Blackboard and other programs:** Many teachers have been asking how long HSE will continue to use Blackboard and Office 365. Jeff Harrison clarified that our contract with Blackboard goes through the end of the 2016-17 school year. Teachers will be involved next year in comparing Blackboard to other Learning Management Systems to determine whether or not the Blackboard contract is renewed. Jeff noted that because Blackboard is currently in use, it would be easier for many if we kept using the same program. However, he cautioned that technology changes are inevitable, so Blackboard updates could alter the program and other software programs may offer advantages that could outweigh the challenges of making a change. As far as Office 365 and other programs, the District has not established a set timeframe of how long a given program will be used. Admin recognizes the challenges that occur when new programs are implemented, but as technology companies and products continue to change, we, as tech consumers, will likely experience changes as well.
 - c. **Junior Highs would like their students to have a Skyward login that is separate from their family login.** Jeff expressed some logistical concerns, but will discuss the topic with Junior High principals. This item will be revisited next month.
2. The Association received information from ISTA UniServ Director Becky Smith regarding an Interest Based Approach for the Discussion process. This approach allows for greater participation and feedback within a structure that is solution oriented. The advantages of such an approach are numerous and nearby districts (e.g. Noblesville) have noted success since making this change. It was agreed that Becky would attend the next Discussion Team meeting to provide HSE Administration with information about interest based strategies and structures.