

Discussion Notes

April 18, 2016

Teacher Evaluation Rubric revision:

The revision previously discussed will go into effect to satisfy the DOE requirement regarding “negative impact”. Second grade and 1st grade high ability teachers requested that the impact of the modification be monitored. There is concern that, because students at this level transition from a test that is read to them to a test that they have to read to themselves, growth data may be a less reliable indicator of teacher performance than at other levels. Administration agreed to monitor the scores to make sure that collected data is fairly representing teachers.

Budget Considerations/Referendum:

A committee has been formed to address budgeting issues in the event that the referendum does not pass. This group will not convene unless needed.

Technology Update:

Jeff Harrison and Tom Kouns reported that technology projects in all buildings are moving smoothly.

- Elementary wireless network updating is in progress with new projects and hubs for each classroom.
- Three to four elementary buildings have been completed so far.
- Staff devices began roll-out the week of April 18th.
- Teachers will have administrative rights on new devices. This will allow teachers to download and install software as needed, add printers, etc.
- If CCA teachers at the high schools are keeping a MacBook as their device, they will be issued the new version of MacBook.
- Existing staff machines (those PCs that are connected to projectors) will stay in place until summer.
- Teachers are reminded to check DVD drives to be sure there aren't any materials in them.
- If teachers choose to keep their mouse and keyboard, please label/leave note to that effect.
- Student computers will remain in classrooms for one year *unless teachers request/label them to be removed*. These student computers will not be replaced or have new parts ordered for them if they fail during the year, but teachers may put in Helpdesk tickets when help is needed.
- **H:Drives will not be available after June 30th**. Please consider that migrating documents and files to Office 365/One Drive can take some time (hours), so be sure to plan ahead. Files and documents may also be moved to external hard drives or flash drives if provided by the teacher.
- **Ipad App Requests**- If teachers ask families to download an app to a student iPad, please include with the request: a picture of the app, link to a site that reviews the app, purpose for using the app, and an approximate range of time app will be used. At K-2, devices that parents have chosen to have remain at school overnight, teachers will be able to download apps to these devices.

Curriculum and Instruction Update for 2016-2017:

Dr. Comb's emphasized that we will continue our focus on instructional improvement and change to more fully develop the practices and habits in support of our HSE21 initiative. She stated that there are many programs and models that can promote inquiry based teaching and learning, and that teachers/schools are encouraged to explore and implement elements as appropriate to our HSE21 goals.

However, Dr. Combs clarified that HSE is not adopting any single program or initiative. For more of Dr. Combs' thoughts on this item, please see her contribution to the Curriculum blog from April 24th. Phil Lederach also shared that Kylee Beers and Bob Probst, authors of Nonfiction Signposts, will be working with the district on developing strong questioning strategies to promote comprehension of nonfiction text.

Calendar Survey:

Results from the calendar survey are consistent with previous years. Teachers overwhelmingly support keeping the semester break at Winter Break, three days off at Thanksgiving, and students starting on Wednesday of the first week back in August. There was also strong support for starting mid-August and turning Fall Break into a week-long vacation. However, setting up a calendar that includes all of these elements while maintaining semester break in December is simply not achievable. A clear majority of teachers are interested in moving toward a more balanced calendar, and working on defining what that could look for HSE needs to be done before further considering this option.

Presidential Election Day 2016

The Fishers police department has requested that schools used as polling places be closed on this day due to dangers with traffic issues, building security, etc. Because we are not currently a 1:1 district, it is not expected that the DOE would approve an e-learning day.

At this time, the corporation is considering using one of the two flex days to cover this closure. There was a suggestion to consider combining the first semester half-day PD sessions into a day-long session. Not only would a school day be preserved, but there would be additional time to plan meaningful PD.