

Unified School District
District Academic Council Meeting
February 10, 2010

Present: Kelly Gentry, Jean Dingler, Jean Johnson, Joe Buchanan, Cynthia Schrader, Kathy Switzer, Diane Miller, Kelly McDiffett, Ken England, Judy Parks, Sherry Edmiston, Marsha Tischhauser, Dave Watkins, Cindy Schultz, Lori Pollock, Sue Shoemaker, TinaRae Scott, Marita Bachura, Shelia Eskeldson and Rachel Tompkins.

Members

not present: Patricia Schroeder, Becky Hiebert, Deb Andres and Linda Pretzer

Welcome: Kelly Gentry opened the meeting at 8:02 a.m. The January 13, 2010 minutes were reviewed and approved.

Improvement

Activities: The completed District Improvement Plan has been submitted to the state. Kelly G. handed out a copy to each DAC member. The Plan will be posted on the district website after Spring Break after it has been reviewed by all the staff.

Kelly G. went over the Action Steps for each of the four district-wide SMART Goals. These steps lay out plans for the rest of 09-10 and all of 10-11.

1) **Reading**

- MTSS in all buildings – our priority and focus
- Committed to state MTSS Tools, Task Lists, ICM
- Structuring 2009-2010, Implementation 2010-2011
- Schoolwide Title I (planning 2009-2010, implementation 2010-2011)

Supports KLN Needs Analysis recommendations:

Addresses SpEd students & Reading (MTSS is “transformational model”)
Creates data-based decision system; strengthens PLC use of data
Builds on our strong core curriculum and core instructional mode (coherence)
Helps alignment with Coop
Supports high expectations for ALL

2) **Math** (an Improvement Plan requirement)

- Math differentiation PD, grades 6-12
- Expectations for constructivist math resource, grades K-5
- Key math teachers on BLTs, District Planning Team
- Begin MTSS Structuring January 2011 (?)

Supports KLN Needs Analysis recommendations:

The focus on instruction supports continuing strong core
MTSS Math supports the same recommended areas as MTSS Reading
Helps alignment with Coop

3) **Instructional Support**

- Refine Walkthroughs (define, regular calibration, feedback, PD tie, PLC tie)
- Teachers involved in Walkthroughs
- Explore MTSS Literacy Walkthrough
- Revise Teacher & Admin. Evaluation Instruments
- Gather information regarding Instructional Coaches
- Initiate Instructional Coach

- Revise Mentoring system

Supports KLN Needs Analysis recommendations:

Principals as instructional leaders
 Adjusting our walkthrough process
 Employing instructional coaches
 Strengthening our mentoring program
 New evaluation to support professional growth & tied to student achievement

4) **Higher Order Thinking Skills/Rigor**

- MTSS Tier 1 – Extensions
- Common Core Standards – curriculum revisions to include higher cognitive levels; 21st Century Skills
- Emphasize this area in Walkthroughs and Evaluation instrument
- PLCs use walkthrough data for this area

Supports KLN Needs Analysis recommendations:

High expectations for all students
 Delivery of high-quality, rigorous curriculum for all students

Note that Professional Development lists are on pages 36 - 39 and include plans for this year and next year.

DAC's role in monitoring – page 40 – future DAC agendas we will have to look at monitoring.

*** Not included in District Improvement Plan (items from KLN Needs Analysis)**

- Continue to work with the Board goals but develop methods/criteria for measuring the success or completion of the goals and adjust as needed. The district leadership should provide the Board with a yearly assessment report regarding progress toward the goals.
- Develop a district-wide homework plan, and develop procedures for monitoring and evaluating teachers' use of homework
- Build a culture of distributed leadership in the district by defining leadership roles, establishing expectations, allowing people to do their jobs, and holding people accountable.
- Address the issue of drugs and alcohol usage by students by seeking out and utilizing local, state, and national resources.
- Building relationship with parents by developing more personal communications and a welcoming culture.
- Closely review the relationship between the Council Grove community and the community served by the two Prairie Heights schools to determine why the split continues and what affect it is having on students choosing not to attend the high school.

Kelly G. presented new rules for school improvement and **1003(g)** money. Schools On Improvement are now categorized into the following groups (the Tiers do NOT mean the same thing as they do for MTSS):

Tier I schools: The lowest-achieving five percent of Title I schools on improvement, corrective action, or restructuring in the State (equals 5 schools)

Tier II schools: Any secondary school that is eligible for, but does not receive, Title I funds and is among the lowest-achieving five percent of secondary schools in the State (16 high schools in KS)

Tier III schools: Any Title I school in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring that is not a Tier I school. States may set additional criteria to differentiate among these schools, which might include schools with low absolute

performance but high growth rates over a number years, or the bottom 6–10 percent of Title I schools in improvement, corrective action, or restructuring.

Our district does not fall under any of these three Tiers because we are a District “On Improvement.”

However, we can apply for a school improvement **1003(a)** Grant. The District Planning Team used the Improvement Plan to set our priorities for this grant. The priorities are:

- Invite teachers to participate in the Walkthrough process.
- Revise both the Teacher and Administrator Evaluation instruments to be stronger tools for improvement related to student learning.
- Explore the addition of instructional coach: Focus of position decided – literacy, ESL, and/or math; supervisor, location, materials decided.
- Common core Standards; revisions of local curriculum to include higher cognitive levels. (This summer we can have Social Studies SAC-Reading Strategies.)

Race to the Top

Information: Kelly Gentry shared with the group the “Race to the Top Summary” (pink handout sheet). This was released in January and applies to EVERYONE, as this will also be the basis for the ESEA Re-authorization. Getting the funds will make it easier.

The \$4.35 billion Race to the Top Fund is the largest-ever federal competitive investment in school reform. It will reward states for past accomplishments, create incentives for future improvements, and challenge states to create comprehensive strategies for addressing the four central areas of reform that will drive school improvement:

- Adopting internationally benchmarked standards and assessments that prepare students for success in college and the workplace;
- Recruiting, developing, retaining, and rewarding effective teachers and principals, especially where they are needed the most;
- Building data systems that measure students success and inform teachers and principals about how they can improve instruction; and
- Turning around our lowest-achieving schools.

Kansas will be notified in April if we get “Phase I” approval or in September if our state application is approved in “Phase II.”

Long Range Plan – please throw away January’s draft versions due to not knowing the state’s timeline for standards revisions. Race to the Top will accelerate the standards revisions quite a bit but the state has not released timelines yet.

Building Reports:

CGHS: Kelly McDiffett reported that the Fall Trimester is completed. The high school has met their reading assessment target! February Parent-Teacher conference time occurs between the winter and spring trimesters, so the HS will be using this as a time to gain parent involvement in pre-enrollment for the 2010-11 school year. Parent-teacher conferences will be held in the gym making it easier for the parents to meet and visit with the teachers.

Kelly M. also wanted to recognize Emily Frese for being National Merit finalist.

CGES: Judy Parks shared that she and her staff are looking forward to Professional Development on Monday with Sharon Bechtel. The staff will meet with Sharon in grade-level groups for about 45 minutes to hour. Judy also reported that she and her staff are working hard and making a lot of progress.

PHES and PHMS: Jean Johnson said the elementary is focus on the Tier grouping; they have no PLC time to work on it. Lori Pollock shared that the middle school is getting ready for state assessments. The Tiers are working for them and they have PLC time to work on it.

CGMS: Cindy Schultz shared that she has another grandchild! She reported that the Parent-Teacher conferences are a little different this year. Each staff member will have about 8-12 conferences, making personal contact with the parents prior to the conference and so far it seems to be working. 7th and 8th graders are working on the Kansas Career Pipeline. The middle school is getting ready to have their 3rd Teambuilding on March 12th. Cindy also gave an update on Guidance that Teacher Appreciation Dinner is March 5 for K-5 for a Lunch and Learn. The 5th and 6th graders went to Chase County for a Bullying Seminar.

PDC/Staff Development: Kelly Gentry reported that there are three more Staff Development days left. March 22nd will basically be a replicate of February's SD day; April 19th is for AIMSweb training and MAP training. For May 24th Kelly would like buildings to give input soon on what training is needed for that day.

Board of Education Report:

Diane Miller reported that the Superintendent Budget Reduction Advisory Committee has met and they helped come up with some ideas. The district still needs to cut the budget \$200,000 more. Monday night the Board of Education meeting will officially consider staff reduction (RIF – Reduction in Force).

Next Meeting: March 10, 2010

Information to/from community
SAC Reports