

Dist. 205 Learning and Teaching Comm Meeting
Jan. 30, 2017
6:15 pm – 8:45 pm

Collins, Bastedo, Ebner present
Public: 2 Staff: 5 Press: 0
Observer: J. Dorner

Committee Chair Collins called the meeting to order.

Public Comment: None

Learning and Teaching Committee Discussion Topics:

A. Math Curriculum Update – Dave Beedy, K-12 STEM, PE/Health, Family Consumer Science Coordinator, presented this update. He started by saying that it is a myth that some students have a gift at math and that any problem that has a set of rote steps can be solved by a computer faster and more accurately than by a person. The goals of Eureka math in D205 is:

- Students make sense of never-before seen “messy” problems and persevere in solving them.
- Construct viable arguments involving math.

Eureka Math is open source and is the most widely adopted curriculum in common core curriculum standard states. (57% of elementary schools have chosen it.) It has extensive professional library of videos and documents available on line. It has a strong emphasis on building number sense and problem solving. 30% of D205’s elementary students are “piloting” this program. Although standardized test scores have dipped slightly, they did not dip as much as a “normal” curriculum adoption. The breadth is not as wide as the Everyday Math curriculum, but depth is much deeper. Mr. Beedy has been “touring” all PTAs explaining this new curriculum. There are many great resources:

- Greatminds.org
- Zearn.org
- Khanacademy.org
- Youcubed.org

At the next Board meeting (2/14), the Board will be asked to approve display of the materials and at the 3/21 meeting, they will be asked to approve this curriculum adoption.

B. Instructional Rounds – Mary Baum, Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Teaching, presented “instructional rounds.” This is based on the medical rounds. A group of 4 D205 Principals, one being the Principal of the building in which they are in, will visit each classroom in a building. After each classroom visit, there will be a discussion focusing on the student achievement objectives of balanced assessments and student engagement witnessed in the room. Each classroom should have learning targets posted for each subject the class will be studying. At the end of the rounds, a report will be written. No teacher names or room numbers will be used. This is to help all to reach the student achievement goals.

C. Standards Based Reporting: A task force has been started to look at standards based report card. It is thought that standards based report cards will give more information to parents about what the student has mastered or needs improvement on. The task force will need to decide on the “grades” given (what would one call it if the student has mastered a task? If a student understands, but needs more time to master?), and on what assessments to use to determine the “grade” (should more importance be put on the assessments closer to the end of the grading period?) .

No grades will be issued at the elementary level and there may be both grades and standards based reporting at the high school. Middle school may phase out grades and go to standards based

reporting. This will be piloted in 2 elementary school in the 2017-18 school year and is expected at all elementary school in the 2018-19 school year.

There was a short discussion about too many changes at the elementary level – new writing curriculum last year, new ELA curriculum this year and new math curriculum next year, with standards based reporting happened as well. Dr. Moyer, Mrs. Baum and Mr. Beedy all stated that the science and the social studies curriculum change might be slowed down.