Meeting Minutes


Not present: Cherokee, Dillon 3, CERRA, Research Associates, & SCASA

I. Welcome by Mark Mitchell

II. Approval of the minutes of the January 14, 2014 meeting
   MOTION made by Mary Chandler and Dannie Blair to approve the minutes from the January 14, 2014 meeting.

III. Amendment and approval of the agenda
   MOTION made by all to approve the agenda for March 11, 2014.

IV. Corps of Mentors Report– NetLEAD Corps of Mentors
   a. News from the Corps of Mentors – Mary Chandler
      • Dr. Cathy Hammond has retired from the Corps of Mentors.
      • Mentees that Dr. Hammond worked with have been assigned to one of the other mentors.
   b. Report on District Mentoring Proposal – Mary Chandler
      • Mary Chandler will be meeting with superintendents and liaisons soon to develop plans for next school year. Mary plans to present the importance of district mentoring.
      • Many new principals have the skills to be successful, but don’t have the experience. They are thrown into the job without a lifejacket. New principals can make mistakes that have long term consequences. The leader is often the lone ranger. (The Education Alliance – Brown University).
      • 3 Goals of District Mentor Plan:
         1. Select district mentors, based upon established criteria, to support school administrators.
         2. Provide an instructional leadership framework with a common language.
         3. Establish time for regularly scheduled PLCs
      • The second District Mentoring Meeting will be held on March 20, 2014.
         o The objective of this meeting is to create strategies and goals for Goal #1. At this meeting, the group will be looking at making the case for district mentoring and getting it right.
         o Resources include: principal instructional leadership evidence, instructional leadership directors, and the book, Blended Coaching.
      • The third meeting’s objective is to create goals and strategies for Goal #2. Resources used for this meeting are: 4 Dimensions of Instructional Leadership – CEL, 5 Dimensions of Teaching and Learning – CEL, Principal Support Article – CEL, and ISLLC, ELCC, Performance Standards for SC principal evaluation.
      • The fourth meeting’s objective will be to create goals and strategies for Goal #3. Resources include standards from Goal 2 and existing models.
      • Additional information about the District Mentoring Proposal:
Notebooks are provided for all districts as a framework
Will present finished work to Superintendents
Information is on NetLEAD website
NetLEAD mentors are available to work with district mentors during the last year of the grant.

c. Assistant Principal Training (Fairfield and Marion) – Theodore Jackson
   - Goal: The purpose of the Program for Assistant Principals is to develop a competent and qualified pool of potential candidates within school districts for Fairfield and Marion counties.
   - Description: The primary focus of the Program for Assistant Principals will be instructional leadership for the 21st century. Participants will engage in a wide range of activities and learning experiences to support the leadership skills needed as a principal.
   - The Main Idea: Focus on Instructional Leadership by looking at the vision of a leader, utilizing data, professional interviewing, and 5 dimensions for teaching and learning.
   - Sharing Expertise:
     - Change Leader – Instructional Improvement (Fink & Markholt). Teach Like a Champion (Lemov).
     - Focus – Classroom Instruction that Works and Engaging Students with Poverty in Mind (Jensen)
     - Instructional Rounds – Center for Educational Leadership and Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development

d. Sharing of Poverty Index and Absolute Ratings – Dale Goff
   - Site visits to schools like ours. Opportunity to look at what others are doing successfully.
   - Luther Vaughn in Cherokee County – Representatives of the school are going to visit schools with a question set and coming back together to discuss and using data (math is an area of concern).
     - School Math Leadership Teams:
       - Administrator, grade level representatives, resource teacher, others
       - Analyze PASS, MAP, and other data
       - Structure of the math block
       - Inclusion of:
         - Numbers talk (mental math strategies), common core standard, problem solving strategies, and mathematical practices.
       - Engaging ALL students in deeper math learning:
         - Holding all students accountable, balance of teacher and student talk, academic language, interactive math journals, anchor charts/manipulative to scaffold learning, and building background knowledge.

e. Thoughts for next year – School Cultural Change – Kathi Gibson
   - School cultural change is a much more difficult form of change to accomplish.
   - What is school culture?
     - A shared sense of purpose and values. Norms of continuous learning and improvement.
     - Beliefs. Rituals and ceremonies. Collaborative collegial relationships. Symbols and stories that make up the persona of the school.
   - Positive school culture is a place where:
     - Educators have an unwavering belief in the ability of all students to achieve success, and they pass that belief on to others in overt and covert ways.
     - Educators create policies and procedures and adopt practices that support their belief in the ability of every student.
   - All children will learn because of what we do!

f. Preparation for Dr. Stephen Fink – Sharon Buddin
   - At the next GMT meeting on April 8th, Dr. Stephen Fink will join us via zoom.us.
   - Dr. Fink is the Executive Director of the Center for Educational Leadership at University of Washington.
• Articles were sent out to district liaisons to review via email. If you have not already done so, please review them before the meeting with Dr. Fink.
• The mentors have been using the 5 Dimensions of Teaching and Learning in many of the professional developments with administrators and with their mentees.
• 3 Questions:
  1. What do leaders notice and wonder about teaching and learning when they are in classrooms observing instruction?
  2. Based upon what they notice and wonder about teaching and learning, what feedback will they give teachers?
  3. How would they use what they noticed and wondered about within and across the classrooms to lead, guide and support professional learning of their teachers?
• Dr. Fink will meet with the group at 10:30am. Please encourage other administrators to attend. Please have one question to ask to Dr. Fink at the meeting. Tara will send out an email to request the question as well as the link to share with others for the session.

V. Data and Updates
a. Overview of Data – Felix Blumhardt
• Educational Leadership Evaluation Instrument Results from NetLEAD 1 Cohort (2011-2013) were shared.
• See handout.
• Fourteen students completed the program in fall 2013. To assess change in school leadership content knowledge, a tool was developed with 75 multiple choice questions. This assessment was given at the beginning of the program and upon completion of the program.
• All students improved scores from beginning to end of the program, but the post test scores average was less than 75%. A review of the assessment is recommended.

b. Data Collection – Felix Blumhardt
• See handout.
• March 2014 – M. Ed. Survey Report – (distributed today)
• April 2014 – Corps of Mentor/Mentee Survey – PIMRS post-test – Mentee/mentor interviews – Focus Groups
• May 2014 – Year 4 APR due – Assistant Principal Surveys
• June 2014 – Corps of Mentor Survey – PIMRS Report – Interview and Focus Group Snapshot
• August 2014 – Collect district date and collect WU data
• September 2014 – PIMRS Pre-Test
• Thank you for the fantastic job you did helping to get the district data to Felix!

c. Update on School Climate Initiatives
• As we look into the budget next year, are the school climate initiatives (PBIS and Olweus) something that we should continue into next year?

VI. Other
a. The next GMT Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2014 via zoom.us
b. Dr. Stephen Fink, University of Washington, will be a special guest speaker
Link information: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:
Please click this URL to start or join. https://zoom.us/j/415484621
Or, go to https://zoom.us/join and enter meeting ID: 415 484 621
Dial: +1 (415) 762-9988 or +1 (646) 568-7788
Meeting ID: 415 484 621
Participant ID: Shown after joining the meeting

VII. Adjourn