

DRAFT Minutes of the DSA School Improvement Team

December 18, 2013

Discuss agenda - any items to add? - No

Approval of Minutes from last meeting - Accepted minutes – motioned, seconded, finalized

Principal's Update (Powerschool update)

- Powerschool is still a work in progress, however the parent portal is now open!
 - o Mailing out letters with passwords this week
 - o Parents don't have to come to school and get validated
 - o Parents expressed appreciation to have access
 - o Designated Powerschool Q and A is Ms. Alpizar
 - o Sample letters to teachers so they know what parents are getting so they can help address any questions
- Keeping powerschool updated may be difficult due to:
 - o Maintenance weekends—scheduled and emergency
- Friday we have our Winter Showcase assemblies
 - o Middle school and high school
 - Showcases talent

DGIN

- Doing good in the neighborhood grant review for Mr. Bourgeois-Gaming Student Development opportunity
 - o Students go to the East Coast Gaming conference for the “gaming arts”
- What differentiates this from a field trip?
 - o More like the Art Portfolio trip
 - o The students are working and focused on what they are doing for TWO DAYS all day
 - o No sight seeing
 - o They are there to network and meet future employers
 - o This is a national meeting
- “We are trying to get this off the ground” – Mr. Hawks – This is a pilot program year and should it work out, then students will realize the value of the event and be willing to pay their own way next year.
- Comparison to Art Portfolio
 - o They pay at least 150 to 180 dollars
- How did the art portfolio get started?
 - o Ms. Page had worked for Parsons and she knew about the portfolio day and felt it would be useful
- When they first did art portfolio did students pay?
 - o Kids likely paid
- What other things do we typically need to know when applying for something like this?
 - o Fully funded x-number of positions? 15 requested
- The registration needs to be paid this week to get the early-bird rate.

- \$25 non-refundable deposit needs to be required of each participant. This money can be used to support going next time or help pay for scholarships next time for this activity
- In summation, go ahead and sign people up and get the \$25 non-refundable deposit and then see how things go
 - The buses will be paid for by another account (not DGIN). The DGIN grant will pay for the registration fees (\$99 x 15 people)
- Motion raised, seconded, approved by all

Discuss goals of Focus Groups for SIT

- Sign up for one of the 3 focus groups
 - Teacher working conditions
 - Common Core 1
 - Increasing Parent Involvement
- Concerns regarding “Teaching working conditions” as a SIT subgroup
 - Different concerns discussed about whether this can be a group (is there anything we can do and what would the group actually discuss)
- We also need to outline our School Improvement Plan for next year – might need topics such as ACT Literacy and *DISTRICT PLC* (the latter as a subgroup)
- Regarding the ACT Literacy, “The low hanging fruit has already been picked”
 - When you are already 70-80 percent proficient, the last 20 percent is the most difficult to get
 - Discussion regarding the setup of the practice test in comparison to the actual ACT
- They’ve raised the lexile score for proficiency for 11th and 12th graders
 - As you grow as a reader, you grow with your conversational proficiency and academic language
 - Where do students get exposed to that much higher level English (1300+ lexile)
 - The states level of “proficiency” is a 17 on the ACT test
- Other notes from Mr. Hawks
 - The state is re-norming
 - So we are shooting in the dark
 - We get to see what they got shot with when we get stuff back
- So.... FOCUS GROUPS
 - Parental involvement
 - Students not passing CC1
 - Literacy (raising general literacy expectations – another group?)
 - Kids that can’t read
 - Won’t read, or Don’t know what to do when they read
 - Teaching working conditions
 - For example, you can drop your copies off in advanced at the front office to reduce copier problems (assuming we don’t copy the day before)
 - ACT (another group?)
 - Math as a whole (another group?)

Break into Focus Groups

- Teacher working conditions, Common Core 1 and parent involvement were the focus groups. Each group will report back to the full team at our next meeting in January.

Adjourn

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