

BLT Notes – 6-13-17

Present: Laurie, Bill, Meghan, Sarah, Noelle, Cora, Katie H., Katie M, Rob , Catherine, Deron and I

Review norms

Approve notes from last meeting

Katie reviewed agenda

- Two parent applicants for our BLT this year since Bill and Noelle's terms are expiring. Noelle talked about one applicant who is a parent in Donna's class. Motion and approval for Amal. Caroline Welte application was reviewed and her membership was motioned and approved.
- Katie Humphreys' term is expiring. She discussed giving the opportunity to Jennifer Ward before we decide who will replace her. She questioned whether or not there had been a vote and if the opportunity had been extended to all viable candidates.
- Sarah is on BLT as SEA rep. She's been SEA rep for two years and on BLT for one. SEA rep is not required to sit on BLT—learned through the BLT training. Sarah is happy to stay on BLT as intermediate Scholars rep. Sam and Brie are interested in doing SEA rep job together next year.
- Cora gave report on BLT training. First day confirmed that our process and structures are in alignment with district expectations. Second day covered bylaws and norms, specifics, and different perspectives of each member. Lots of helpful resources and articles. What have we already done? What do we need to do? Establishing the mission and vision seems like the next step. Also learned about solving conflict and different ways of structuring the BLT. We should consider having more specific roles for members so we can lighten Katie's load and spread the work around. A column was added on the agenda as the result of the training: action to be taken.
- Extra teacher update coming this week!
- Social studies waiver approved for 2017-2018 school year.
- Start times—we are in tier 2 next year. IF city council approves the \$2 million, we will have tier 2 start times.
 - 8:40, 8:55, 3:25, 3:35. Wednesday dismissal is at 2:10.
 - will certified and classified contract times change?
 - Bargaining for early release days—is it or isn't it approved?
- Draft PCP schedule for next year
 - Four 40's
 - Younger kids PCP in the afternoon
 - PEACE PCP is five 30's in the morning
 - Times aren't correct because start and end times aren't set yet
 - Kindergarten PCP is wonky because of the job share

- The draft includes the extra teacher?
- One idea from Kate Poux is stacking PCP one day a week and then having three 30's for three days per week. Interesting idea to explore as a way to do data inquiry and other meetings. How would it work? Could it work on Wednesdays? How do BLT people feel about it? Gese likes the idea. Bill asks if kids would get a specialist block would ever be one hour? Would specialists themselves like that better? Katie H isn't sure if this would work for PEACE. Katie May asks reps to explore and discuss with constituents. Rob asks if PLC's will be the same this year, Katie explains that we are still unsure of how we will be using time according to new bargaining. Good chance there won't be a separate PLC meeting outside of the school day. Katie will send blurb about collaboration PCP schedule idea.
- HCC program name change
 - ACC—accelerated curriculum cohort
 - APP refers to instruction not children. The label should reflect curriculum, not students. How about we call everyone Scholars?
 - Some teachers want the name change at the district level.
 - Name change at the request of HCC advisory committee
 - If we call everyone Scholars it's kind of like being colorblind. We should determine the language so kids don't.
 - Gese: comes up a lot. What does HCC get that they don't get? She told the science kit story. Some kids want to be accelerated in math, others saying resources are allocated differently.
 - Think about how we can communicate about this in Pup Press and other venues.
 - Does this mirror what we are seeing with parents and what kids hear from their parents?
 - Cora: kids in 2nd grade are mostly unaware. Do they become more aware as they move up and get older?
 - How does the way school is set up not work for kids and impact their behavior?
 - Katie H—shift from 3rd-4th grade means a huge jump in awareness. Yardsticks—kids at 9, “the world is against me”.
 - Bill: the word Scholars is a noun that refers to kids. If we want to internally replace the name, what is that noun?
 - Catherine: **Accelerated Curriculum Scholars**. Katie wants to get feedback from people. Let's put it out there and see what happens—the importance of being transparent!
 - Cora: we should have a lesson(template) about how we talk about different programs at our school. Talk about how we look out for everyone—how all Scholars keep it REAL.

- Bill—the better the communication to parents, the less complaints. There is going to be “unfortunate blowback”. Can’t imagine a strong argument for keeping the HCC label.
- Rob—a word that means “ahead” is refinement and is it worth the political impact?
- Meghan—a common name among all of us would give us a “backbone”.
- Sarah—ACS makes it more accessible.
- Meghan—person-first language feels different
- Katie will draft a letter and send it to us
- Operations of BLT
 - Shift facilitation load off Katie and onto others
 - Sometimes she comes to talk the whole time and it would be great if it wasn’t that way. We should farm out roles at the end of each meeting, kind of like SST. We should schedule some of the roles at the retreat.
 - Talking order?
 - Using different protocols
 - Is the number of meetings right?
- Summer Retreat
 - We need three hours
 - Proposal: August 24th or the 29th from 4-7. Maybe at Sarah’s.
 - Please check your calendars.