Teaching and Learning Update October 2011

Testing/Assessment- Nothing new to report here!

Curriculum/ Materials Adoption- You'll see on your board agenda a number of items that the IMC (instructional materials committee) approved for student use. These will be available at the meeting for your review and approval. I believe that all of these items are well within your standards for our community.

We will be having our first literacy materials review meeting coming up during the second week of November. I think I've mentioned to you before that everyone that I've surveyed concerning this review is very happy with the current curriculum and the work will focus on re-ordering of replacement materials and identifying supplemental materials to expand and further student learning with our current adoption.

Professional Development- I just completed a second Google Doc's class on Monday 9/26 and a second round of iPad's for educators on 10/10. We did a 3rd and final round of the summer institute on 10/14, which was the state in-service day.

I'm currently working with Sharon Bussler to provide 4, one-hour technology offerings for staff after school. These offerings will provide staff with tools that help make them more efficient, and better able to use technology to enhance their classroom. I will provide you with the classes and dates when they are finalized if anyone cares to join us.

I know that Mark forwarded to you my invitation to the K-2 math teachers to get together with me and discuss our math curriculum and how we present it. I have 3 respondents right now and expect about 10 before we meet. I know there are a lot of good ideas out there among our professionals and this will serve to educate me, inform them and find ways to better meet the needs of our students and our community. I'll give you updates as this work progresses.

CTE (career and technical education)- We had our first CTE parent/community advisory meeting on Wednesday night 10/5 @6:30 pm in Mr. Lambert's room. We focused mainly on the "reworking" of the woods and metals shop to surplus many old out of use pieces of equipment to create larger, safer spaces that will accommodate current needs. You have on your agenda a list of items identified by Mr. Neiman and the advisory committee as surplus. I support this designation which will allow us to convert these unused items into liquid assets which will in-turn create opportunities for repair, modification and modernization of other items for our students.

ELL- Nothing new to report, our FTE numbers remain around 15, this is where we ended last year. From a budgeting perspective this is good!

Grants- just responding to OSPI questions for clarification, all is good!

Community Linkage- Tammi Honeycutt from AWARE presented the newest material on Internet safety/ sexting and teen sex trafficking along with bullying and harassment in the social media on the 28th of last month. The class was well attended with about 35 parents and students in attendance, mostly of middle school age. (Students that is!)

The results of the community/ parent survey on "parenting resource needs" is now posted on the front page of the district website. I received 195 responses from which we've gleaned lots of good information for planning learning opportunities for our parents and community. I'm currently in touch with LCPD (la center police) to provide a drug and alcohol awareness night as our next offering!

I'm not sure where to put this so here works, I guess. I went to Clark College this week and took the math Compass test. This is the test that our students must pass to gain enrollment in running start or to be placed in what the college believes is the most appropriate math class for them as incoming freshman. I have offered to cover the high school math teacher's classes so that they might do the same. Our goal is to ascertain what exactly is on this test, how the material is being presented and identify what issues our students may be encountering. The good news is that I did pass the test. The double good news is that I learned a lot that will help our students. After we've all taken the test we will get together and identify what areas we need to pay particular attention to in our current curriculum to ensure that we don't leave our students with any "holes". Additionally I intend to develop a "refresher" class for our seniors to take in the spring before they graduate in order to better prepare them to take this test. I envision 1 evening a week for 4 weeks during which we cover the identified key areas, that the review of, will best prepare them to succeed. I'll keep you posted! Anyone want to take the test? I'll be happy to help you with the process!

Dave.