Teaching and Learning Update April 2013

Curriculum/ Materials Adoption- We have just concluded another round of meetings at the high school and elementary schools for math and will have the next middle school meeting on 4/22. We continue to make nice progress with this process as I continue to feel confident that we've engaged any and all stakeholders that want to have a voice in this process.

I did some follow-up research concerning the student question posed at the last board meeting that came from my report. The question was concerning the success of what we call twelve-year veterans in math. Twelve-year veterans are those students that have spent their entire academic career with us, having enrolled in K or 1st grade. You will find a link to two files below the link to this report for your review. The long and short of it is that those students as a whole are extremely successful on the state math test both as a group and compared to any measure at the state level. The class of 2013 had a 90% passage rate and the class of 2014 had an 89% passage rate. This compares to our entire class passage rate of 74.9%. I'm not sure what all this tells us but it does say something and we'll continue to try to put this into perspective.

Professional Development- We will be meeting on Saturday, April 27th to share what we have learned from the application of the "Mark Church routines" that the co-hort has been implementing in their classrooms over the last month. We will also be using some of that time to plan a staff led summer institute around these same routines. If you remember from earlier reports, these routines are designed to help teachers purposely increase the cognitive demand and facilitate thinking processes in their classrooms.

ELL- On our latest update and review of our ELL budget we are now forecasting that we will have sufficient funds to complete the year with current staffing and points of service and enough budget space left to purchase new instructional materials for K-5. This will be a huge bonus moving forward in the following years.

Career and Technical Education (CTE)- Nothing new to report specifically in CTE but on a related front we've identified a math text called "Financial Algebra" that we like on first review. This is not connected to our math adoption but is a possible solution for many of our CTE students to meet their 3rd year math credit and requirement in a manner that supports their pathway. I'll keep you posted as we move forward on this possible adoption. (This would replace applied math)

Title I/LAP- Wow, lots of review, discussion, and planning going on here particularly concerning a variety of summer learning opportunities for our students who will be in the K-6 grade band this coming year. As things come more into focus I'll inform you of the details. In general we are looking at our usual summer school opportunity for our current K-1 students. A summer "boot camp" for incoming kindergarteners, a summer "transition and support" camp for our more challenged 5th grade students who will be transitioning to 6th grade in the fall and lastly we're looking into providing on-line ALEK's math access for our to-be 4th and 5th grade students over the summer.

Highly Capable- Our 4th grade students are participating today (4/19) at Skyview HS in the last "math is cool" competition for the year. As the weather turns sunnier we will begin planning some field trips for our HC students as previously mentioned.

Testing/Assessment- MSP (measure of student progress) testing begins this month with the middle school reading assessments starting on 4/24. One grade level (K-8) or another will be testing almost everyday on one content area or another through the middle of May!

Thanks, Dave.