Teaching and Learning Update June 2014

Curriculum/ Materials Adoption- Math materials are delivered, in rooms and in the hands of our teachers!

There are 3 books and a video for you to look over for approval at July's board meeting. All of the IMC committee members, save one parent who is on vacation, have looked over and given their thumbs up. I will point out that the HIV video is a much-needed upgrade from what we are currently using. I know that any instructional material around this topic can or may be controversial. This video is on the OSPI approved list but we felt it should be something that the board approves directly. One parent who viewed the video did comment that it struck them "strange" that the teen "actors" in the video all appeared very healthy and athletic even though they all had the virus. This parent didn't know if this was the correct message to be sending to our students. This was the only "negative" comment from the committee members. I would encourage you to approve it.

Professional Development- Once again, it's all about math this summer and into the fall. K-2 will have a two day PD class on June 24th and 25th provided by the publishers of the Bridges materials. Grades 3rd-5th will have all day training on the 26th of June from the MyMath publishers. The middle school and high school teachers will be meeting in teams at various times over the summer to review the new materials in detail and plan both lesson plans and transitions between grade levels and math levels.

ELL- Our results have come back from our spring WELPA testing of our ELL students. We had four students test out of the program based on these results. We had many students make significant progress over the year and the fact that 4 of them have "graduated" from the program is wonderful.

Career and Technical Education (CTE)- Nothing new to report here!

Title I/LAP- We are in the final stages of planning and setting up summer school. We will have:
A kindergarten summer school for "intensive" in-coming kindergarten students.
A first grade summer school for the current kindergarten students who have tested below benchmark in reading.
A third grade summer school for current second grade students who are struggling in reading.
Hawks landing I for incoming 6th graders similar to what we did last summer.
Hawks landing II for 7th and 8th grade students who are struggling in math and other subjects.
And finally, a fundamentals in math class for in-coming 9th grade students who are not fully prepared to begin algebra I.

Highly Capable- We have completed our evaluation of students for this spring to identify new HC students for program. This was the first year that we've considered kindergarten and 1st grade students. In the end we've identified 5 new students and 9 additional for further testing in the fall. This number is a little smaller than in previous years so we will continue to look at the accuracy of our process.

Home School Academy- Bonnie has wrapped up the first complete year of home school and we both agree that it was a great success. There is an expectation based on contacts and applications that the program will continue to grow into next year. We've learned much and made many changes to forms, monitoring, on-going supervision, etc. etc.

On a personal note, I want to thank all of the board members for all of the time, effort and thoughtful guidance that you have provided to me over my time here with you. I can only hope the board that I will soon work with can have the same dedication to student learning that you all have.

Dave.