

Assistant Superintendent Report to the Board

September 2017

Pathways2Teaching

I have been working with district leadership to establish a partnership with the College of St. Scholastica to create a career pathway in the field of education for students of color to earn high school and college credit in grades 11 or 12. In Minnesota we are experiencing an increase in student diversity but educators do not reflect this increase (96.5% of teachers in MN are white). More and more literature suggests that students of color have improved student achievement when they have teachers of color. Pathways2Teaching comes from the University of Colorado in Denver and Dr. Margarita Bianco has led this program nationally. The goal is create the course for students by the fall of 2018.

Staff Development Day

We had our district-wide staff development day on August 29. The superintendent shared a welcome back video that all employees were able to view as part of the day. The important take-away message from the video, all employees play a valuable role in contributing to the success of our students.

The training day for elementary classroom teachers was focused on orienting them to the new Reading Wonders curriculum. Elementary special education teachers and interventionists received training on intervention curriculum as part of our MTSS plan. Secondary principals facilitated staff development activities for their schools specific to the work being done with their Continuous Improvement Teams to improve student outcomes. All other employee groups within our organization, including paraprofessionals, facilities, transportation, etc. all received training on August 29 specific to their role in ISD709.

Book Study

I have asked district leaders, cabinet and principals to join me in reading the following book, "**Courageous Conversations About Race: A Field Guide for Achieving Equity in Schools**" by Glenn Singleton and Curtis Linton. The achievement gap continues to be our most important work. I will be engaging in a book study with principals using this book as a way to facilitate deep conversations. Several folks have already read this book and it comes highly recommended. I invite you to read this book in order develop common language and understanding across the district regarding this important work.

