

Assistant Superintendent Report to the Board

December 2016

Site Visits

Stowe
Lowell
Denfeld
Homecroft

Principal Development

Principal PLCs have been meeting monthly. They have been learning about effective instructional practices and how to identify those practices in classroom. Teams have been conducting walk throughs in classrooms together to support this work across schools. I have been meeting with teams and participating in classroom visits as well. Again, the purpose of the principal PLC is to develop principal instructional leadership capacities. This process allows teams with common needs to collaborate to support school improvement based upon differentiated needs of each school.

An important quote that guides my work as Asst. Superintendent:

High-expertise teaching is the most significant variable in student achievement. And the leadership of the principal is the key variable in making sure that high-expertise teaching grows and in determining whether or not the school-as-workplace becomes an engine for constantly improved teaching. (Jon Saphier & Pia Durkin)

Continuous Improvement Teams

We have several CIT trainings to be held this winter and spring with representatives from each CIT. This structure continues to be a primary driver for district and school improvement efforts. I am currently working with the Regional Center of Excellence to plan the remaining training for 2016-17.

Multi Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)

Leading MTSS in our district continues to be a significant role I have in the district. In partnership with our ISD 709 MTSS Leadership Team, I have been meeting with CITs to build MTSS understanding across elementary staff and discuss system changes needed to improve the current MTSS structures in each school. I have been working closely with middle school interventionists as well to begin planning next steps for MTSS implementation at the secondary level.

Special Education

Jason Crane and I have been working closely with MDE as part of our grant to increase graduation rates for Black and American Indian students receiving special education at Denfeld and ALC. We meet monthly with MDE to monitor this grant. We have hired Check and Connect (C/C) mentors and those mentors are being trained in December by the University of Minnesota. With the assistance of MDE we are monitoring the implementation of C/C and the student outcomes of this project to determine its effectiveness in improving graduation rates.