

Board Report October 2018

Campus Design Teams

Campus Design Teams recently met with Nancy Rindone and discussed campus focus and areas for work this year. Campus teams' work included a focus on communication with parents and staff, parent and community engagement, student work, and student voice.

NWEA MAP Assessments

Hillsboro Elementary and Hillsboro Junior High campuses have completed the fall NWEA MAP assessments and Hillsboro Intermediate is near completion. Data from the screening, which includes student performance in reading, language, and math, will be reviewed at campus and district levels to evaluate programming and to establish student growth goals for winter and spring. Teachers on each campus have received training on how to read reports and utilize data to positively impact instruction. Parents of students at these campuses will also receive reports showing student academic goals and growth during parent conferences.

IMAGINE

Hillsboro Jr. High School 8th graders have finished their first six weeks using their Chromebook Touch devices as part of the IMAGINE (Instructional Materials Access for Gains in Education) program, which was funded through a TEA Technology Lending Grant. The first IMAGINE Walk, classroom observations by campus and district administrators with a focus on student device usage, occurred in September. Every 8th grade student in classes visited was using their IMAGINE device for classwork. Data from ClassLink, our district single-sign on portal that provides analytics on digital instructional material usage, indicates that students in the IMAGINE program are accessing digital instructional materials daily, which fulfills the first goal of the technology lending program.

New Teacher Induction

New teachers attended their first "touch base" at the first of October. During this time our new teachers were given the opportunity to express any concerns, ask questions, reflect, and give feedback as to how their first six weeks of school had gone. The feedback from the "Touchbase" meeting will be shared with principals and mentors. In early November, principals and mentors will meet individually with Mrs. Boyd. The purpose of the collaboration is to determine greatest areas of strength as well as immediate need in order to "combine forces" and provide intentional support for our new teachers.

Information gathered from the new teacher touch base and the mentor collaboration meetings will be utilized to determine next steps and professional development for teachers during our upcoming "Learning Walks" and "Cluster Meetings". As per the philosophy of our induction program, we want all of the PD opportunities provided through the HISD Teacher Induction Program to be appropriate for the individual needs of each teacher as much as possible!

Improvement Planning

As part of ESSA requirements Districts that receive Title I monies are required to complete and submit to the State and Federal Department of Education an Equity Plan. The Equity Plan should determine if there are disproportion rates between those economically disadvantaged students who are served by inexperienced or out of field teachers vs. those that are experienced and teach within their field. Mrs. Groppe and Mrs. Boyd are working on gathering all data and will complete and submit the plan. Findings will be reported at a later Board meeting.

This year our District, the Intermediate, Junior High and High School have all been identified as Schools of Improvement. To identify districts and schools for improvement, TEA utilizes a rank ordering method based on the Closing the Gaps Domain Performance, which is the federal accountability piece. The District received a letter grade of a "D" in this domain. The Intermediate and High School campuses are identified as needing additional targeted support and the Junior High has been identified as needing comprehensive support and improvement. The District and all three campuses must complete an intensive targeted improvement plan and the Junior High has been assigned a Professional Service Provider that is a TEA consultant. The Junior High will also receive additional Federal Funds to support learning. All campuses have begun working towards improvement goals with the focus being on providing quality instruction and effective lesson planning through data disaggregation and progress monitoring.

Our principals are to be commended for the positive way they are approaching these targeted plans as we fasten our attention on best practices, better district processes and systems, and improvement across our district.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Angela Boyd & Sheila Bowman