

# Assistant Superintendent Report to the Board

April 2016

## Site Visits

Lincoln Park Middle School--Student for a Day!  
Stowe  
Myers Wilkins-next week

## District

Staff Development Day-Feb 29:

We had a different structure for the day where staff were able to work in smaller groups with building leaders in an effort to learn more about ISD 709 initiatives (MTSS, PLCs, positive school climate). Some of the activities included:

- All staff having the opportunity to learn another cultural sharing activity that they can use with students.
- Most staff were able to spend some time in PLC groups to continue their work with their PLC.
- Dr. Tawnyea Lake and I had the great privilege of speaking to elementary staff in the morning and afternoon on the topic of MTSS.
- Middle school and high school staff had the opportunity to learn more about how to improve reading skills for their students in their content areas.
- Superintendent Gronseth took the opportunity to connect with early childhood staff.
- Dr. Michael Cary was able to visit most secondary staff who were digging into PLC curriculum work and common assessments.

I will be working closely with principals to plan for how we continue to support these efforts for the remainder of this year and into next year. We will continue the work on reading in the content areas, MTSS, PLC development, etc. We conducted evaluations of the day with staff following the event and overall feedback was very positive.

## Early Childhood

We have formalized an ISD 709 PreK-3 Leadership Team. The team has been developing the vision for our future work. Additionally, we are planning how we can enhance and expand our current programming as well as build greater partnerships across the Duluth community in an effort to ensure more children have access to high quality early childhood programming. Here are some highlights of the changes for fall 2016:

- Transitioning early childhood classrooms into blended model classrooms (School Readiness, Title, Head Start).
- Expand programming by offering two pilot sites that offer full day and ½ day options with blended funding classrooms (Stowe and Laura Mac).
- Create a common application/registration process across all programs for improved family access and

information.

- Early Childhood Special Education will serve all children with an inclusive integrated model.

### **Elementary**

- I have been working with our MTSS leadership team throughout the year to support three pilot schools with intensive coaching and support. We are looking at how to expand this work to more buildings next year.
- Kindergarten Round Ups are now complete. I am working closely with principals and the business office to determine accurate student numbers and staffing allocation for FY 17. The deadline for applications to immersion program was April 11.
- Principals and teacher leaders have drafted a elementary specialist schedule with a 5 day rotation. This requires an MOU with DFT. However, we are working closely together to try to be able to implement by next fall.
- Ron Lake and I are assisting principals with the development of a process for office discipline referrals at the elementary level. We hope to bring more consistency in how behavior is documented across all elementary buildings. Much of the support we are providing is based on PBIS practices.

### **Secondary**

- The request has been made by the middle schools to look into the capability of incorporating WIN at the middle school levels for next year. Principals and teachers are working together to draft a plan for how that could look for FY 17.
- Dr. Cary and I are working closely with MS and HS principals in the registration process and master schedule development for 16-17.
- Jason Crane and I are working with secondary principals in developing more accurate course offerings for special education students. Service and courses offered by each school should align with students IEP goals and objectives.

