

Date: February 5, 2018
To: LPSD School Board Members
From: Bill Cornell
Re: Curriculum and CTE: December 2017- February 1, 2018

December-January Professional Development:

The highlight of professional development for December and January was being able to send six people to the Response to Intervention Conference in Anchorage through a grant associated with Enhanced Learning Maps. At the conference, teachers were able to discuss LPSD's approach to interventions and instruction, as well as learn current best practices from experts in the Education field. We had a good balance of teachers, administrators, and support staff who attended. The intention is to bring what was learned at the conference back to all staff.

If at all possible, it would be great to have a group of staff attend this conference on an annual basis. The travel to this conference was supported through an outside grant, but I feel it would be worth looking for funding options to send staff in the future.

Curriculum:

Reading Committee- The Reading Committee is reviewing both National Geographic Cengage and Houghton Mifflin Journeys as the final two options for our new reading resource that we will implement starting next September. So far, the committee has had the opportunity to review National Geographic Cengage.

Overall, the committee was impressed with the NG Cengage materials. They feel that it is a quality program that could work well for our unique district. All things considered, it is a good option to replace what we currently have. However, it would be very good to get more explicit phonics instruction. Writing and grammar would need to continue to be emphasized outside of reading instruction. Some pros and cons of the program:

Pros	Cons/Questions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High interest content• Emphasis on informational text• Aligned to other content areas which is very beneficial in the standards based system and for the shortened school year.• Will work for distance courses most materials are already available electronically• The comprehension instruction is good. The questions are in kid friendly language.• It seems like it would work well for multi level instruction• Assessments are clearly aligned with the instruction and define standards addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not enough emphasis on explicit phonics instruction in the lower grades.• Additional grammar and writing instruction will be needed.• Training and buy-in are a must.• It won't be as good if we don't have all of the components.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very user friendly for PowerSchool and record keeping – standards are clearly identified in multiple places | |
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Committee members will finish reviewing Houghton Mifflin Journeys materials this month, and I will share a pros and cons of each program, as well as a recommendation of which program to go with, in my next report.

Culture Committee- During the Cultural Review meeting in January, we discussed where we are in the process of our 5 Pillars of Culture--they are ready to be shared for feedback from our communities! Michelle Ravenmoon will be bringing them to all of our sites and sharing them at the community meetings set up for the ANE Grant. It was also decided that level 10 will be more of a student-project based level with a project plan and rubric to be determined by the student. For approval of level 10 projects, there will be a committee consisting of a counselor, a rep from the CA committee, teacher and principal from the student's site. Counselor's will also be tasked with creating rubrics for each of the pillars to be reworked for each level.

Experiencing Out- Initially, much of the discussion about students experiencing out of levels using out-of-school experiences revolved around Cultural Awareness. However, we are seeing how this could apply to other areas as well- using commercial fishing experiences to experience out of a level of Employability is just one example.

I have asked for a draft version of a couple documents be posted. Also, the RTI Conference attendees were willing to sit down and meet as a group to discuss the process of students experiencing out, and their comments have also been shared. Please provide us with any feedback you might have.

Distance Classes:

We conducted a survey of the Online Program with all distance staff to get feedback on the program. Some of the struggles pointed out were scheduling within a school to make sure students can be supervised while the online teacher is teaching, learning how to better utilize PowerTeacher, and making sure calendars coincide between distance sites. This last point is one that I think should be taken into consideration when sites are working on their calendars. Overall, staff are pleased with the program and think it should continue.

Also, welcome to Ashley Temarantz out of Perryville- she is taking over Level 6 Math instruction for the remainder of the school year.

CTE:

CTE Session 3 is scheduled for March 19-23 and includes Basic Marine Training, Culinary Arts, NCCER Core, Professionalism in Health Care and Introduction to Behavioral Health. Session applications will go out February 9.

As always, feel free to contact me at 571-1211, or via email at bcornell@lpsd.com, if you have any curriculum or CTE related questions.