

Assistant Superintendent Report to the Board

May 2018

Here are a few highlights happening across the district this month.

Full Service Community Schools

The 2018 Community School National Forum, sponsored by the Coalition for Community Schools, was held May 1-4. A team of community partners and school staff attended the annual conference in Baltimore, MD. This year, we presented at the national conference regarding our partnership with *Together for Health*. Thank you to Education Minnesota for covering the cost for me to attend and assist in the presentation for ISD 709.

Duluth Community School Collaborative 20 Year Celebration was held on April 19. It was well attended and a wonderful event. Thank you to the Collaborative Board for organizing this celebration.

Early Childhood Summit

The 2018 NE MN Early Childhood Summit hosted by the Northland Foundation was held on April 19. We had 35 staff attend this year and the costs for registration and subs were covered by the Northland Foundation. We had teachers, principals, superintendents and board members attend the event. The main presenter discussed the topic of trauma and the impact it has on our earlier learners.

Mental Health Conference

The nation's largest children's mental health conference was held in Duluth on April 15-17 by the MN Association for Children's Mental Health. Grant dollars were used to support ISD 709 staff to attend. I attended along with some teachers, social workers, etc. The event was filled with information for schools regarding historical trauma and trauma informed schools.



Wellness Policy Update

We have been focused on building awareness of policy and supporting compliance with federal requirements while working to encourage school sites to develop their own solutions for promoting healthy, safe environments for all students.

Implementation of the wellness policy has consisted of the following:

- Communication plan regarding new wellness policy has been implemented
- Fundraising alternatives and resources for schools and parents are posted to our website: <http://www.isd709.org/for-parents/Wellness-Policy>
- School wellness promotion (walk/bike to school days, Farm to School program at several sites, development of resources to educate and promote wellness in schools and among principals, encouraging school sites to be self-directed – not top down)

Outcomes:

- Alternatives were found for special education services fundraisers.
- Surveys were conducted with each principals regarding wellness policy implementation and shared with wellness committee. Feedback from school principals has been generally positive – they feel staff understand the expectations of the policy. We need to focus more communications efforts on parents/families.

Wellness Next Steps:

The wellness committee has discussed the need for greater focus and collaboration with community partners in the realm of mental wellness and substance abuse prevention. The focus on nutrition and physical activity in our schools will continue.

Disproportionate Discipline Plan Update

I recently facilitated two meetings in preparation for our action plan to address disproportionate discipline. We first met with principals, then with elementary, middle and high school QLTs to review district data and determine initial first steps. We are now in the process of developing a leadership team to oversee this work. Please see the attached data, shared with these teams, as part of the board packet.

