

Pleasantdale School District 107

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Upon reflection of the completed summer projects of 2015-16, we are able to determine our direction for the future of summer work. Knowing that curriculum work is an important and ongoing process, the administration made adjustments so this valuable work can also be done during the school year. These adjustments include better use of Wednesday meetings and a thoughtful use of teacher release time.

In the past, summer hours were approved by Curriculum Council. This year, our administration employed a different approach. Once submitted, summer hour requests were reviewed. Priority was given to projects that needed to be ready for the start of the year. This initial review allowed us to cull the hours submitted for summer work. We then contacted the authors of approved projects to see if a further reduction of hours was possible. All approved projects were reduced by 20%. Based on staff feedback, we were able to decrease the allocated hours from 1,394 to 1,072.

As in the past, summer hours focused on a variety of curricular areas as well as new initiatives. Throughout the summer, teachers/teams kept in close contact with Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Candy Kramer, and made sure she was aware of and able to support their work. Candy was able to meet with teachers and teams to offer support and guidance as needed.

While much work was completed over the course of the summer, school curricula is always a work in progress. It continues to be our goal to provide our students with new and engaging opportunities. Summer work helps us to achieve this goal. Based on a new procedure for accomplishing this work and through close supervision, many teams' projects came in under budget. The total hours spent on summer work was 689.75, saving the district \$15,595.

As we look toward a model of continuous improvement, a new professional development plan has been rolled out for the 2015-16 school year. This plan will ensure that all curricular work is able to be completed in an efficient manner. Feedback from staff members is and will continue to be valued in determining how to best continue making progress.

Main takeaways:

- Individuals and teams met with targeted areas of focus for summer work.
- The end result was high quality projects that came in under budget.
- Summer work allowed teachers to provide students with a smooth beginning of the year that included new and engaging ideas.

Mission

Ensure that each student is a passionate learner empowered with the Academic and social skills to responsibly choose and excel in life pursuits.