

Teaching and Learning - Board Report

Mark Schommer

December 10, 2024

Positive Talking Points:

- Math Professional Development - the 6-12 team got together for a day where we visited Rhinelander to see their implementation of *Building Thinking Classrooms* - a book study we are working through. The book emphasizes engaging tasks, collaborative groups, how we set up the classroom, and much more. Then we met as a group and developed our long-range mathematics vision statement which will lead us in our choice of materials and the professional development we offer to support our teachers.
- Dedication of teachers in so many areas - Many things are moving forward this year and the complexity of them could easily cause teachers to get frustrated. However, the opposite is happening. We are seeing the excitement and energy that will continue our trajectory forward!

Pillar #1: Teaching, Learning and Relevance

- Continuing from the positive talking points, the math team's teacher developed a vision statement that includes the following statements. It is not a completed vision yet but is moving us forward.
 - Incorporating vertical spaces to promote movement and interaction.
 - Organizing random student groupings every day to encourage collaboration.
 - Starting each class with purposeful warm-ups to actively engage students from the outset.
 - Actively moving around the classroom to provide support to all students.
 - Encouraging productive struggle.
 - Linking conceptual understanding to provide students with various strategies for solving problems.
 - Encouraging flexibility and efficiency in the methods students choose to solve problems.
 - Selecting high-quality tasks that engage students in reasoning and problem-solving skills.
- The science team has been working on their course offering for year 2. So far, we have done a standards analysis and brainstormed some ideas for

incorporating the standards we are missing and looking for standards that are instructed in another course.

Pillar #2: The Whole Student

- We began our second series of interventions for students. This session will run through January 16th. The students in this session are either continuing from the last session and/or had teachers who expressed academic concerns.
- The Winter assessments started last week. These scores will be used to help us determine if some of our practices are moving students forward. However, using these scores has caution since we are only 10 weeks into a new program.

Pillar #3: Communication and Community Engagement

- Showcase planning continues. So far communication has occurred with teachers regarding basic expectations. Planning will continue through January.

Pillar #4: District Workforce

- New teacher training is continuing with an emphasis on lesson planning, engaging students in learning with lesson starters and purposeful closures.

Pillar #5: Operational Excellence

- Act 20 is still in the forefront of much of what we do. The legislatures are consistently clarifying or adding additional requirements. We are working to meet as many of these requirements as possible.