

SUPERINTENDENT'S MID YEAR REPORT 1/26/09

1. District Wide Educational Initiatives

The district continues to develop the same basic four educational initiatives that began last year. The Initiatives are as follows:

Instruction: Includes K-12 common instructional strategies, AVID, instructional focus areas of reading (9-12) and writing (K-8).

Collaborative Teams: Includes the work of K-12 Professional learning Communities/Data Teams.

Standards and Benchmarks: Includes the development of K-12 Power Standards.

Assessment and Data Analysis (creating a culture of data use): Includes the development of K-12 summative and formative assessments of the Power Standards. We are also developing common data analysis practices through our work with the PLCs.

The attached graphic created by the School Improvement Office further explains our work this year.

All schools are meeting regularly in PLC teams. Common formats for PLC Team meetings and note taking are being used K-12. Administrators are attending those meetings and providing feedback to staff for training and improvement. The Board/ Superintendent goal is to have K-12 Power Standards developed in core academic areas and K-12 common formative assessments for those same core content areas. We are making progress on this goal. We have also begun to develop the training and use of common universal screening assessments for early literacy and numeracy in K-1, after school programs K-5 and at the middle school. The high school is beginning to use the STAR test for reading as a universal screening tool.

Secondary Efforts

ACE (Architecture, Construction and Engineering) Charter School: In its first year of operation, many good things are happening. I am leading the Director's Evaluation Committee.

CTE (Career Technical Education) Programs/Advisories (PHS): This is a critical focus of mine. In partnership with AP Kathy Scott, much progress has been made in developing CTE programs that deliver an educational and post

secondary product to PHS students. As per district directive, the high school has set up business and higher education partnerships through a series of mandatory quarterly Advisory meetings so that they can stay current on industry standards for communications, technology, business and video production. A Health Occupations and Wellness CTE program is in the works.

New Diploma Task Force/Freshman Team Development (PHS): The Task Force has met multiple times and will continue getting the high school (and middle school) ready for the new diploma. Note: Due to severe cut backs in state school fund support, the State Board is considering delaying its implementation. More information to come...

AVID (PHS and PrMS): This change in school culture is growing and developing. Thanks to fantastic PHS staff, AP Helen Ying and district staff, Yuki Montieth, this program is moving forward. We will start 2009 with 2 more AVID classes-one at 10th grade and one at 8th. The Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration and Reading (WICR) instructional strategies are being taught K-12.

Literacy Workshop at PHS: This course is targeted to be an intervention for those students reading below 8th grade benchmark. The teacher is doing an excellent job working with these students to raise reading fluency and comprehension at the high school level.

New Vision at PHS: The new vision designed last year is coming along one piece at a time. We need to keep to the course without stopping.

New Metals Class Pilot: A new class is being piloted with a partnership between the Parkrose School District and Northwest College of Construction. Fifteen students will take a semester long course in Metals. While many students signed up for the class, space is limited due to the nature of the course.

New After School Programs K-5: The district has utilized Title I funds to design and implement a new after school program at all elementary schools K-5. The program is designed to be more of an extended school day than recreational. The district is piloting a new on line web based assessment tool called AIMS Web at our after school programs to see how well we are progressing in early literacy and numeracy skills. This Parkrose design has garnered state wide attention.

Miscellaneous: In addition to all of these efforts, the district is continuing its efforts in Talented and Gifted, Special Education and English Language Learning educational best practices. (If you would like more information on

ELL practices and current status of program, please review January 12th Power Point written by Kathy Keim Robinson and Yuki Monteith.)

We are exploring K-12 specific educational interventions at every school and district wide. There will be more to come on this.

II. Community Connections

The superintendent continues to be involved in a wide variety of community, county and state wide efforts. The following is a fairly comprehensive list of activities and memberships:

1. Gateway Business Association
2. Parkrose Business Association
3. Columbia Corridor Association
4. East Metro Planning Action Committee member
5. Education and Life Success Workgroup (Co Chair with Lorenzo Poe)
6. Leaders Round Table member
7. Superintendent's Council of Multnomah County
8. Parkrose Educational Foundation (adjunct district member)
9. Sun Schools Executive Leadership Council
10. MOU Leadership Team
11. Athletic Booster Club (Supports K-12 Parkrose Athletics)
12. PMS/PHS Boosters (community partnerships, parents and families)
13. Elected to serve on the Oregon Association of School Executives, the executive branch of COSA
19. Also elected to serve on the Education Enterprise Steering Committee for Multnomah County
20. Community Partnerships Committee of the Board
21. New partnership with City of Portland Parks and Recreation to create a regional sports field on the east field of the high school
22. Chosen to serve on Mayor Adams' Education Cabinet

Three new events are being planned to connect Parkrose School District to the community and higher education:

1. Joined school districts and Mount Hood Community College Board evening in June, 2009.
2. Joined Neighborhood Associations evening in May, 2009.
3. Joined PTV, PTA, Boosters evening February 4, 2009.

III. Communication Planning

As a reminder of several communication plan key activities from last year (which continue today) the following information is provided:

1. *Parent Advisory Council:* This group consists of a number of Parkrose School District parents with representation from each school. Monthly, 15-20 school district parents meet with the superintendent to discuss current district issues and together, work on resolutions to perceived problems. Parents continue to be concerned about improving and increasing communication between schools and parents. Parents are also concerned about reaching poorly represented minority parents in these efforts.
2. *Parkrose High School Student Advisory Council:* This group consists of 10-20 high school students who meet regularly with the superintendent one time per month to discuss current events, issues and goals for improving the high school. This year, the Student Advisory has chosen three main goals with the chosen first goal being getting students ready for the Transition from 8th to 9th grades. I find it interesting that this matches the work of the new mayor, superintendents and most educators in our area. We will be meeting with Principal Gonzalez from PrMS to determine what work they can be involved with in promoting a solid transition. The students also wanted to continue to grow school spirit and extending SUN school activities to more kids.
3. *District “Key Communicators” email distribution group list:* This is a superintendent developed list of roughly 80 key members of the community who will receive updates on district activities and issues, newsletters and notices. The intent of the list is to provide information to people who will spread the news to others and who are positive partners in the Parkrose community.
4. *New District Newsletter, “Parkrose School District: Discovering the Power of Education”.* This newly designed newsletter will be published quarterly by district office staff to showcase K-12 district activities, goals, events and news. It will also feature an individual school or program each month. This newsletter will be distributed through email to community partners, parents, staff and the business community. It will also be distributed via the Mid County Memo newspaper quarterly as a colorful insert.
5. *Mid County Memo “Superintendent’s Corner” feature:* This informational and spirited article will showcase great things happening in our district. Articles will be published quarterly in off months from the district Newsletter and will be published widely.

A new Parkrose School District Community Communication Plan is under development. Please see IV. "Superintendent/Board Collaborations" section.

IV. Superintendent/Board Collaborations

The Board committees developed in 2007-2008 are continuing in their development and work. These are:

1. Finance and Facilities
2. School Improvement
3. Community Partnerships

The Board and Superintendent presented their work on Board committees at the annual November 2008 OSBA Convention to a packed room and very positive feedback. Each Board member shared their expertise and experiences in an informative and professional manner.

The School Improvement Committee, led by Board Co Chair Ed Grassel along with district School Improvement Director, Yuki Montieth, continues to work on the successful completion of the four district wide educational initiatives. This committee is comprised of staff members and administration.

The Finance and Facilities Committee, chaired by Board member Alesia Reese with the help of district Business/Operations Director, Mary Larson, is developing a long range facilities plan to compliment and inform the work of designing a successful bond campaign for 2011. This team may have it works cut out for them as state school funding continues to be dismal. This team is also composed of the budget committee (when needed).

The Community Partnerships Committee, chaired by Board member Katie Larsell, is developing a new Community Communications Plan. This includes the assistance of consultant Shannon Priem, former PR Director for OSBA. Administration, Board and parents have been surveyed as part of our Needs Assessment and precursor to plan development. The Plan will be unveiled by the end of this school year to begin in fall 2009. The superintendent is on this committee along with members of the staff, community and the Portland Schools Foundation Program Director.

Board member Reese and Superintendent Gray will attend the National School Board Association Convention this year to continue networking and developing our knowledge around 21st century learning frameworks for technology. The board also attends many of the meetings of the superintendent including Health and Wellness, Advisories, Technology and task forces.

V. Future Plans

The following is a list of some of the superintendent's future plans to be completed by June 30, 2009:

1. Continue to promote, support and encourage the further and continued development of the four district wide school improvement initiatives.
2. Review an evaluation of Parkrose High School's new vision model (2007-2008) and provide feedback on the progress and results to the Board and community.
3. Review the work of two task forces that began last school year and continue today: Technology and Athletic Strategic Plans.
4. Continue to support the work of the Community Partnerships Committee (together with the Board and community) to increase communication with the community and improve marketing our district to future business/community partners.
5. To continue to develop Career Technical Education/Career Pathways programs as a means to solidly connect our high school students to post secondary opportunities and the workforce.
6. Complete/make progress on all 2008-2009 Board/Superintendent goals.
7. Pass a budget that is balanced and has the least impact on our forward progress on improving student learning in Parkrose School District.
8. Provide a solid influence as an experienced educational partner on the education strategies being developed by both the city and state of Oregon.
9. Have completed a new certified evaluation process that is modern and effective. It will match our district initiatives and reflect up to date educational best practices.
10. Aligned Career Pathways 9-12 grades are in the early development stages but are making progress. I expect to be able to report to the Board significant progress in this area by June 2009.

Parkrose School District: Discovering the POWER of Education!!

GO BRONCOS and PACERS!!

District Initiatives

“Discovering the Power of Education”

Instruction

Create common kindergarten through twelfth grade instructional strategies. The goal here will be to collaboratively orchestrate a process to craft and implement instructional norms that would be practiced by every teacher in our district.

Collaborative Teams

Support and establish Professional Learning Communities throughout our schools.

Standards and Benchmarks

Commonly align student current academic targets by grade in a “power standards” format.

Assessment and Data Analysis

Facilitate the process and learning for teams of teachers to create formative assessments to use the data derived from the assessments to guide instruction and determine the support necessary for each student.

Instruction

- To increase the use of Common Instructional Strategies (Reading, Writing, Inquiry Questioning, Collaboration) by 25% over the 2008-2009 school year as measured by surveys and teacher observation checklists.
- Train certified staff and implement Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program at 9th grade the high school and begin planning AVID at the middle school over the 2008-2009 school year as measured by AVID assessment tool.
- Train staff in effective elementary writing instructional strategies to improve elementary writing scores by 10% as measured by the 2008-2009 state writing assessments.
- Train staff in effective secondary writing instructional strategies to improve state writing scores by 5% in 2008-2009 as measured by state writing assessments.



PLC

K-12 Aligned:

Power Standards

Common Assessments

Common Instructional Strategies

Collaborative Teams

- To increase staff knowledge of Professional Learning Communities (PLC) and advance the PLC groups along the continuum of PLC characteristics by 50% in 2008-2009 as measured by PLC assessment tool.

Standards and Benchmarks

- To increase the use of state standards by staff by 50% in 2008-2009 as measured by team meeting notes and district-developed rubric.

Assessment and Data Analysis

- To increase the use of common assessments/data analysis by certified and classified staff by 50% in 2008-2009 as measured by team meeting notes and district developed rubric.

Strategic Targets

- To increase the knowledge and use of positive behavior supports in the district by certified and classified staff by 25% in 2008-2009 as measured by School Wide Evaluation Tool (SET).
- Increase the knowledge and use of Talented and gifted student teaching strategies by 25% in 2008-2009 as measured by meeting notes and district-developed rubric.
- To increase certified secondary staff training in SIOP or GLAD strategies for English Language Learners by 50% in 2008-2009 as measured by Training Attendance and SIOP Observation Tool.
- To increase the use of targeted interventions with students achieving below state benchmarks in mathematics, reading, and writing by 25% in 2008-2009 as measured by meeting notes and district-developed rubric.
- Increase knowledge of the high school diploma requirements within the district and community and align district high school diploma requirements with the state as measured by alignment to the state requirements and changes to the high school structure/materials.