



Medford Public School
ISD #763



Medford High School

School Board Report

September 2016

1. Fall Professional Development Summary

- **STAR 360 Assessments:** Teachers received training on how to access and utilize the data from the STAR 360 assessments. They are taking the place of the OLPA tests that are being phased out next year. Using the STAR 360 will take much less time and provide teachers will more usable data than the OLPA's.
- **Stealing Minutes:** Heather Casella presented to the staff on how to encourage all high school students to read more through a choice novel program called 'Stealing Minutes'. Each ELA classroom has been building a classroom library (in addition to the media center) of choice novels for students to check out throughout the year. Teachers will be having students read their choice novels during any down time throughout the day and on designated advisory days. The goal of the program is to cultivate interest in recreational readers and raise achievement scores through better readers.

2. College Financial Aid Readiness Night

- The FAFSA forms are due 3 months earlier this year and representatives from the Financial Aid Office at Riverland College and Wells Fargo will present to parents tonight (9/19). Topics include how to fill out the FAFSA form, how to create a plan for paying for college, a preview of the local scholarship program, and an overview of the post-secondary plans students are creating in their advisories.

3. Middle School Retreat

- Among many new strategies being put in place in the middle school this year was a retreat to build community and encourage 7th grade students to connect. The 7th grade teachers, paras, and some parents helped students progress through five stations designed to get them to work together and solve problems as a group. Feedback from students and adults was very positive and we hope to continue it in the future.

4. New Teacher Induction Program

- Mary Christiansen will be working closely with our new staff to support them and help them navigate their first year successfully at Medford. One important part of the program are monthly meetings of first year staff to cover important topics related to teacher retention, creating a positive culture, and discuss the many things that veteran staff take for granted.