

Goddard Accountability Committee

January 30, 2017

3:15 in the library

Members in attendance: Bryan Breuer, Shannon Hanschen, Nicole Avery, Elena Jones, Eric Andrews, Suzy Olsen, Laura Jones, Jean Kavanagh, Kerri Lind, Eric Martinez, Janet Castleton, Karen Embree, Liz Blei, Sandra Hosler, Ashley Miller, Michelle Campbell and nine additional parents

Presentation by Superintendent Brian Ewert and Jack Reitzel, School Board:
Improving Student Learning with PLCs

Only district in metro area that is accredited with distinction.

Our new district achievement goal states:

“100 percent of LPS students will graduate prepared for meaningful, post-secondary opportunities.” We believe with more PLC time this is possible.

When teachers are given the time and space, Professional Learning Communities do work. Teachers expected to teach collaboration, critical thinking, creativity and communication, but not given the opportunities to do the same with each other.

The difference between the business world and the education world is that businesses get the best resources and turn them into the best products, whereas schools take students in whatever condition they are when they arrive, and teach them the best they can, starting where each student is academically. Teachers need time to discuss and plan for each student.

PLC currently: 10 two hour PLC late starts

In each PLC teachers are expected to answer essential questions:

What do we want students to learn and be able to do?

How will we know when they do?

What do we do when they don't get it?

What do we do when they have mastered it?

The superintendent showed a video from Rick DuFour talking about the importance of PLCs. He stated that teachers need to share best practices so that all students have the opportunity for best instruction available. Teachers need to help each other learn, and have time to learn from each other; time to talk about the challenges they faced; successes and failures; intervention strategies and monitoring of student learning.

Mr. Ewert also shared Sheridan School District information about how teacher collaboration turned the district around. He felt the primary reason was the PLC.

80% of time is spent in front of kids in US

60% of time is spent in front of kids in other countries.

Time without students: 15 hours in other countries

Time without students 3 hours in US

PLC is best opportunity to go from Good district to Great:

Community in changing: 90 kids are immigrants from other countries

More children living in poverty

Standards for graduations changing: more rigor

Teachers need to have more time to work together to accommodate for more challenges and changes.

What might PLC look like in future?:

Status quo - no change: one late start per month

or

Early starts or early releases - Flip start times for elementary and high school

(detailed schedules on LPS website)

Or flip starts and pay teachers to stay late on PLC days

Concerns: bus runs, child care, high school sports

School Board will make a decision in April about whether to implement next year or take another year to decide.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Embree