

CPA Leadership Council Meeting 3/1/07

Present:

Sandi Hunt
Annie Johnston
Dari Ana Young
Jaime Knight
Caren Olsen
Ben Hamilton
Jackie Jenkins
Pawan
Flora Russ
Kimberly

Comings and goings Jackie has to leave and come back to pick up Noah.

Constituency Reports:

Student Report: Started birthdays, made sub committees, looking at budget for CPA t-shirts, teacher appreciation... Created subcommittees because there wasn't enough time to get stuff done, so now Mondays are just check in and a little more relaxed. Suzannah came and they worked together to work on Habits of Community and Code of Conduct and merged them into Community Values. Based Student of the Month on these and they have been chosen for March. We have to figure a way to make these things visible

Parent Report: Had lengthy presentation from the Writers Coach Connection, learned a lot about what is needed to make this program happen, it's A LOT. There is a strong move to keep forging ahead, parents are going to begin training. College information night is coming up (Saturday March 10) both students and parents are welcome to come. Looking at the whole spectrum of college options. Parents are interested in "real time" grade reporting. Grades would be posted on a secure site accessible to parents via password. Does this have to be Leadership Council decision? Maybe only if it became requirement for teachers to keep it up? Can students "opt out" of having their information online? There is another grading program that sends out information as an email. Are the grades just online? There are some technology issues etc.

Teacher Report: Teachers have been working on Portfolio question in CPA as sub committees. Some teachers and students are going to look at some schools where portfolios and advisories are used together. This is the focus of teacher professional development for the rest of this year and into next year. Part of that is working to connect what is included in the portfolio to the whole school outcomes to create a foundation for our entire school (course of study, curriculum, assessment etc). Teachers have put together Habits of Mind, Guiding Questions, and Whole School Outcomes in a single document. Goal is for Student Leadership to look at this document and for it to come back to the Leadership Council. There was also a presentation to Student Leadership by Ms. Bell and Freidus on Advisories and they got some feedback from

students and set up the school visits. Is the decision of CPA doing advisories independent of the whole school decision? There are many different options etc. There has not been much success with advisories in CPA regardless of how it has been implemented. Sandi's daughter has been in advisory programs with much success and effectiveness.

Whole School Outcome subcommittee report was folded into teacher report.

Data Subcommittee Report:

Needs to reconvene to look at the data and see how we are doing. Must look at the equity goal, going to try to get data on which kids have raised their GPA and by what amount.

Data subcommittee will convene and have a more detailed report.

Homework Question. Work in small groups to address some questions:

What have we done so far?

Some teachers give time during class to do homework

Assignment boards – Universal Practice

Posting Homework online – Universal Practice

Homework Center – had someone in everyday to help students with homework and they got credit for going – this is something that we've done in the past but aren't currently doing.

Teachers who stay after school and at lunch to help students but it is not organized like it was last year

We also have H202 with tutors on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Diab and Lewis give credit for going. Lewis makes students get form signed.

We have hooked up with a program called I.A.M. (intelligent, aware, motivated) through Cal to tutor students Tuesday and Wednesday from 3:00 to 5:00.

There are quite a few peer tutors as well as a motion towards student study groups.

Issues bin:

Some tutors don't know how to help students, especially in IMP and maybe they need training.

Students who need tutoring shouldn't necessarily get credit for going (Ben).

Tutors should come and go to the classes

Teacher committee needs to come together and ask how the tutors are being used

What can we do?

Teachers came to the conclusion that a huge problem is homework completion.

What else can we find out about homework in the academy to assess how to get better student performance? We need to get more information to figure out how to address the problem.

What is the issue with homework?

Kimberly: not so much the amount but the difficulty. Ex. Dopman gives a rubric and example but then once you get home you don't have enough to actually do the work. Need more steps before hand to make stuff happen.

Caren: Students maybe aren't able to connect what happens in class to the homework.

Ben: Students have to choose which homework to do and give up on things that are too hard.

Dari Ana: Often do the easy homework at school and then don't have help at home.

Can we collect more of this type of information from students so that we know what problems that they are having in order to inform our practice?

Jackie: this is a problem that hasn't changed in a long time and we have to be careful about taking student input to change our practice.

Ben: maybe we need to spend some time on strategies to get over the humps of doing homework.

Caren: It would be interesting to know why students are NOT using the many options we have to support students.

Annie: It's frustrating because we HAVE been creating these structures and students do not use them. Ex. In I.A.M. we have 12 students who signed up for it.

What more do we need to know to address these issues?

There are structural issues as well and possibly a conversation that we need to have.

Jackie: Making students and parents take ownership of why they are here a commitment to the program.

There needs to be a conversation to address how to make that ownership happen.

This is a school structure issue, and school culture issue etc etc.

Question: What is the understanding of students and parents of our expectations for them to complete the program.

Caren: How do we engage with students who are short on credits?

Jackie: This is tied into portfolios and grading for mastery.

Homework Subcommittee: Pawan, Caren, Jackie, Dari Ana (?)

Focus on acknowledging and rewarding achievements rather than always talking about problems.

“Above and Beyond”, honor roll, student of the month,

computer crapped out at this point....