



District Mission: To prepare all students for life-long learning

District Vision: We will:

- Exhibit an unconditional commitment to students.
- Provide an environment that is respectful and nurturing.
- Provide a high quality and challenging education in which all children succeed.
- Foster individual and collaborative creativity.
- Foster interdependence among all individuals in our community.
- Create an atmosphere of continual improvement and reflection.

Title: Emotional Wellness Committee

Date: December 2, 2009

Location: Seminar B

Time: 4:00-5:10

I=Information A=Action D=Dialogue

Agenda Items

Person(s)

Code

Welcome/Introductions

All

I

*The facilitator provided a welcome and described that meetings typically begin with “positive words.” Next, all who were present introduced themselves.

Present: Rebecca Leafman, Joe Malin, Linda Biondi, Cathy Tkachuk, Sue Barkhausen, Melanie Cohen, Matt Truding, Anne Simons, Karen Cunningham, Caroline Hermes, Laura Seyfert, Ashley Ward, Lynn Moore (Da Coach), Cindy Yi, Jennifer Daniels, Kathy Allen

Purpose

RL/JM

I

The facilitator discussed the purpose of this group; primarily, it is about *information sharing* among all stakeholder groups at the district level. Also, to raise awareness of social emotional character development skills within each one of us and apply them to the groups, teams, families, etc... for which we are a part.

Positive Words/Updates

Building Mentors

I/D/A

Building Mentors and Community Leaders provided updates regarding some progress in regards to Emotional Wellness. Below are a few of the highlights:

*Cherokee provided an update regarding an Opportunity Fair (for staff) that will be held at Cherokee; also, subcommittees have emerged (please see update handout)

*Sheridan provided information about a Celebration Board for staff members; for the students, the building mentor described assemblies that are tied to the 5 District-Wide Character Traits.

*At DPM (5/6), advisories have been very successful. This is the first year of revamped implementation.

*At DPM (7/8), Hot Treats and Hot Topics continue to be successful and involve sharing of a lot of great ideas among staff.

*At Everett, a recent assembly on Veteran’s Day was a strong success and included leadership by military veterans. Also, the administration is allotting time during staff meetings to address and intentionally work on the emotional wellness initiative.

*Quest Food Service is making a strong effort to learn all students’ names and greet students personally as they move through the lunch line. Food Service has been highly supportive of the initiative (e.g., dyeing food for Red Ribbon Week, Character Tree etc...).

*LEAD continues to provide excellent supports to parents and community members, and upcoming is a Middle School Program that is supported by a grant. This is a 3-part series including local experts as facilitators. The local districts are proud to be able to partner with this series as well. Dates: Jan. 13, 27, and Feb. 3. Details on the D67 Homepage

*CROYA continues to provide excellent supports for students, and one recent program, PAL (Peer Assisted Leadership), has been implemented with a small group of student leaders at DPM 7/8 and is focused upon peer leadership.

*Student performance at a Music Program was outstanding and a great example of teamwork; an outstanding learning experience for all involved.

*The APT efforts really make a difference and are appreciated very much by school staff.

*Charmm'd expresses an appreciation for the great work in the Lake Forest and Lake Bluff districts and also shared information on an upcoming program (likely to occur in late January, 2010).

*CEP Coach expressed the uniqueness of being able to work with the high schools as well as both Lake Forest and Lake Bluff elementary districts.

*The facilitator also reviewed the overarching district goals that are part of this initiative. (Continue to raise awareness and buy-in and continue to infuse social emotional character development skills into curriculum and routines).

Book Study

RL/JM

I/D/A

*The facilitator shared this group will work on a book study for the current school year. The book is titled, Positive Words, Powerful Results by Hal Urban. Many members are familiar with his work and/or have been able to hear him speak.

*Members were asked to sign up for a chapter to facilitate, if they would like. The book will be a vehicle for discussion in future meetings, and the final meeting will be devoted to 'judging' the Custom Cover Contest Entries.

Reflection

RL/JM

I/D/A

Members of the group were provided the opportunity to reflect on the meeting, etc.:

*There is tremendous interest among school staff in an upcoming leadership institute sponsored by Charmm'd

*Conferences can be difficult, and it is good that there are opportunities for parents to hear about their child as a person

*Student-led conferences in grade eight are remarkable in terms of students' ability to reflect and evaluate their own progress

*Progress in the initiative is apparent to a parent who has seen three students attend D67 schools both pre and post the implementation of the initiative

Meeting Dates:

Dec. 2, Seminar B

Feb. 3, Seminar B

April 7, Seminar B

May 5, Seminar B

“Our words reveal our thoughts, our manners reveal our self-esteem, our actions reflect our character, and our habits predict the future.” ~William Arthur Ward