



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: District 67 Emotional Wellness Committee

Date: February 17, 2011

Location: Seminar A

Time: 4:00-5:10

**Present: Karen Cunningham, Debbie Gross, Julie Cooley, Liz G., Michael Freeman, Barb Binversie, Matt Truding, Maureen Quaid, Sue Barkhausen, Cathy Tkachuk, Linda Biondi, Lynn Moore
 Joe Malin, Rebecca Leafman**

I=Information A=Action D=Dialogue

Agenda Items

Positive Words

Person(s)

All

Code

I

- 3 new babies at EV and grateful Nate Eklund, author of How Was Your Day at School, came to each of the elementary schools – he observed interactions of the staff and students and followed up w/ an in-service w/ each schools staff – focus was on staff relationships
- RTN – 50 LFHS students got together to watch the film on a Saturday
- Middle School Series was a great success! Attendance was good!
- Many thank you’s for the teamwork of putting together the Middle School Series and RTN events and having Susan Haans facilitate
- Many upcoming EW Events – check the District Website

Updates

All

I/D/A

***Building Mentors and representatives**

DPM – Hot Treats/Hot Topics theme this year is Stress Busters. Opportunity for staff to connect before school and talk about fun topics and help build strong relationships. Lunch planned at the Silo after the tri-district institute day.

Advisory has focused on bully prevention. Students opening up and sharing a lot – topics included cyber bullying and sexual harassment, honesty and integrity, rumors. Staff and students (grades 5/6) have been using the 3 Gates of communication: Is it true? Is it kind? Is it necessary?

DPM had to cancel the Bully, The Bullied, an the book talk due to low respondents

EV: Nate well received, now need time to reflect

Just finished kindness week (idea gained from CEP Nat’l conference) teacher, student, parent based when they saw someone doing something kind you can give them a heart. Another activity was ending the day w/ hot chocolate

Character assembly for Honesty and Integrity was a success. EV is trying to get a student council going –pilot this spring, will not be voted by ballot or popularity, but whoever wants to do it may do it – they are going to let the kids come up with the ideas.

SH: Spent time as a committee working on IOU's (important, observable, and uniting) behaviors that are valuable to SH based on character traits-this is a working document. Playground Pals program has 40 student volunteers (4thgr)- those students are available at recess for 2nd graders to be available for them and share lunch w/ them, looking to expand the program to other grades. SH also had Nate, good insights for staff.

SH APT had a follow up meeting/discussion from RTN

CH: Taking things slow and revisiting Nate's insights at an upcoming staff meeting –supported by leadership – Honesty/Integrity Assembly went well, student run, 3rd grade moving ahead w/ Empty Bowls Project (April date) idea gained at CEP conference fund raiser and the money goes to food pantry Participants pay \$10 for a bowl, which are made by students in art- for a bowl of soup and bread. This project links curriculum and the welcoming customs of Indian customs, which always fed people that came to their villages. Project showcases local hunger and are staff going to volunteer at local soup kitchens inviting families and students to join them. The Art show is also going on too.

Cheetah paws – any good news, positive affirmations, submitted to principal and shared via brief email

***BBF**

Met w/ the bus drivers in January. A lot of open communication and addressed calling bus driver by Mr./Mrs.

Bus drivers feel valued, more open communication, trust, networking

Student feedback from one 3rd grade class reported no issues this year

***Community (CROYA, LEAD, CHARMM'D, Parents, etc...)**

LEAD: Madeline Levine and Denise Pope will present in 3/15 – details on-line

Parent University, 2/26 details on-line, Middle School Series very good, handouts from Debbie Gross's presentation were given also available on-line

CROYA: Jessie Urban, new Youth Worker for CROYA, ARROWS program, from the Illinois Teen Institute, is being held Friday, 3/11, 2PM – 9PM for 8th graders – high school students will host 8th graders and provide info. about high school and ease the transition. ARROWS is open to all students in 8th grade (DPM, LBMS, LFCD, St. Mary's)

Girl Teen Time (GTT) coming up 7th/8th grade girls group. Due to high numbers there will be 2 groups, Boy Teen Time to come in future.

Parents: Still work in progress to clearly define where EW role fits in APT structure, opportunities to figure it out and eagerness to contribute and be involved figuring it out

Discussion about how parents seem to desire information related to Emotional Wellness, but then the info and resources are not accessed, i.e. the parent resource corner on Friday Newsletter and DPM Book Discussion cancelled. It may just take some time and more marketing to get parents used to these resources. Work in progress.

***Race to Nowhere**

Community viewing/event about 100 people attended the discussion, continuing dialogue at all buildings and in the community. Staff seeing RTN on 2/18, committee to get together to discuss next steps, discussion www.leadweb.org

Bully Prevention Update

DG

I/D

2008 Debbie Gross worked w/ Bully Prevention Committee, visited schools, met w/ administrators and came back this winter to visit the schools again and observe and meet w/ administrators

There is a lot of EW stuff that is incorporated every single day, character traits, "Caring Leaves" on wall, positive messages on the walls in every building, research-based programs being used and positive difference in all the buildings and among the community as a whole.

At elementary level wellness teachers are sending videos home that preview skills so students can feel more prepared coming to class

Partner/mentoring among all the grade levels

Lunchrooms – 2 years ago kids subliminally bullying, kids not attended to in terms of supervision; however, this year middle school really well covered, caring supervisors overall

Transition times still a work in progress, but this is a function of what goes on in schools and at elementary checking in/out for bathroom use is still a work in progress = safer behavior

Parent perspective, some parents are reporting that there are still teachers saying kids need to toughen up and not following up w/ victim

Debbie stressed importance of follow up and check in w/ the victim, still a work in progress – spread this to staff and parents, best way to let kid know to have a voice and it's being heard, check in w/ staff and parents

Importance of noticing the positives – let the supervisors who are doing a great job – let them know, which is an effective way to get everyone on board

During winter months – it was suggested that during in-door recess possibly have community service as an option, i.e. Project Lynus blankets, letters to vets, 15 minutes to do service and keep busy constructively

Also observed, teachers are treating kids w/ respect and kids are responding respectfully. For example, one supervisor respectfully asked girls to work as a team to clean up and they agreed

Kids engaged in happy chatter

Saw a lot more of a healthier environment this year compared to 2008

What do you do when you have parents/teachers that don't support the system?

Look at how we structure reinforcements – it takes a village to raise children, but village has to be on same page and consistency and accountability are key!

We need to send message in multiple ways/multiple times to get parents to the resources (incident reporting system, parent resource corner, etc...)

Literature/Resource Sharing

All

I/D/A

Reflection

RL/JM

I/D/A

Meeting Dates:

May 5, Seminar A **If you would like to help judge the CUSTOM COVER CONTEST for the assignment notebooks, please plan to stay until 5:30 on May 5th.**

"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