

**Highly Capable Learners Parent Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**November 18, 2015**  
**9:30 am – 11:30 am**

**Attendees:** Dawn Christiana, Maria Griggs, Sherri Guiton, Adam Resnick, Veronica Douglas, Keith Schacht, Lisa Van Doren, Maia Thomas, Samantha King, Jeanne Gaffney, Sara White, Vicky Reardon, Quenby Peterson, Trish Neary, Mike Copland, Chelsea Jackson

**Welcome and Introductions – Keith Schacht** – Discussion of Norms – Possibility to develop norms during next meeting.

Connecting – Highly Capable Learner Wonder?

- Is this process going to be similar next year?
- What is a parent's responsibility and what can be doing at home to support our students?
- What support is there from the district to help parents and teachers?
- Would a self-contained classroom ever make sense in our district?
- How so we foster individuality and talent in each child where they are developmentally?
- Is every HCL child placed with a teacher that has been trained?
- If resources weren't an issue what would Middle and High School look like?
- What can we do to make sure Highly Capable Team is here year after year?

**Communication – Mike Copland**

- Working hard to create various venues to foster communication.
- We are happy to hear criticisms; it helps us think about what isn't or is working for students.

***NOTE: November 18 HCL PAC session was largely open discussion.***

Questions/Comments

- Main challenge is not communication – when is the roll out plan, how do we make sure we are getting SLPs, much more concerned about implementation of services.
- Problem with self-contained classroom would be that 1% kids would be in self-contained classroom, but 5% kids would be distributed to other classrooms.
- Student Learning Plans (SLPs) – Dawn Christiana – Discussion of SLPs and what are some things that we might consider that are not on the current plan?
- In January, if the student has met the goal already, is there an ability to make a new goal?

- End of the year – add parent or student response for two-way communication for response fed to next year’s teacher.
- September could be when the two-way communication takes place.
- Is there a way to push for teachers to have a picture of specifically who the student is through data?
- Communication to teachers in person with HCL team instead of electronic communications.
- Elementary to middle school, is there a plan in place for that transition?
- Wish – previous and new teacher meeting together regarding student?
- Is this current model workable to meet with every teacher?
- How do we make sure there is a universal understanding of the importance of SLPs?

## **Differentiation – Professional Development for Teachers in the Highly Capable area**

### Individual Professional Development

- PD days – 4 days with teachers being able to choose areas that they wanted to focus on for their learning
- Building PLCs
- Student Growth Collaboration

### Small Group Professional Development

- Continue PLC
- Learning Focus Choice
- 5D+

### Suggestions/Comments from PAC

- What if we flagged teacher identified Highly Capable (extra pay, extra resources)?
- Why was there a shift from having an identified HCL teacher at each level?
- Families were seeing that this HCL teacher was the “good teacher” in the school because of their status.
- As a system we are working really hard make sure that every child should have the opportunity to learn at a high level.
- Research shows that one day of PD for HCL does not work, teachers need continued support.
- Don’t you want teachers who are motivated to teach HCL, what is the clear path for teachers if I wanted to follow HCL path?

### **Exit Ticket**

### **Future Actionable Items**

- Highly Capable Learners Parent Advisory Committee school representative information will be provided to families.

**Next Meeting – January 6, 2016**