

BELLINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Middle School Conferences Committee December 15, 2011

AGENDA

1. Review Minutes
 2. Review Homework
 - Chapters 10 & 11 of *Beyond the Bake Sale* book
 3. Small Group Work on Construction of Models of MS Family Engagement
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NOTES

Present:

Peggy Zehnder	Whatcom, teacher	Jeannie Hayden	Kulshan, principal
Ben Hayes	Kulshan, student	Chuck DeVange	Kulshan, teacher
Ronni Weston	Kulshan, teacher	Karen VandeBosdre	Kulshan, teacher
Laurie Hoyt	Fairhaven, teacher	Criss Forslund	Kulshan, teacher
Kenn Robinson	Student Services Program Director	Ann Buswell	Whatcom, principal
Andrea Hood	Fairhaven, parent	Josh Meese	Whatcom, teacher
Tina Perona	Shuksan, student	Sara Strommer	Shuksan, teacher
Cat Wallace	Fairhaven, parent	Teri McIntyre	Kulshan, parent
Trina Hall	Title I/LAP Program Director	Tom Venable	Deputy Supt

Review Minutes

The minutes from the December 8 meeting were reviewed and amended as per committee member input. Teri McIntyre made a motion to accept the minutes as amended; Peggy Zehnder seconded. Motion passed, changes will be given to Marilyn and notes will be posted.

Review Homework

Committee members engaged in partner discussion related to the homework assignments of reading Chapters 10 and 11 of Beyond the Bake Sale. Following the discussion, each pair shared out a thought and a question to represent the thinking. Sharing included:

Related to Resources

- Wondered about some of the resources listed for parents, how many parents go to the websites mentioned to access the information?
- Some of the resources/programs mentioned in Chapter 10 are already present in the district (AVID, SLC's, etc).
- Saw the chapters as good resources and ideas if we were looking to implement a broad range of family engagement, however some resources seemed possibly out of date.

- Family involvement coordinator job description is mentioned in Chapter 11 –wonder about the cost? With limited resources would such an expense be an “and” or an “or”?

Related to Conferences

- The purpose of conferences needs to be defined.
- Question: Do we have to have the same purpose at all the middle schools?
- Question – related to the scope of this committee on student led conferences – seems that there are three elements that need to be considered.
 - Purpose of conferences?
 - What are we currently doing?/What’s missing?
 - What are the expectations for the four middle schools in terms of conferencing and family engagement?
- Question: How do our middle level efforts empower students?
 - Let’s make sure that we figure out ways to help students take responsibility of their learning when we consider the purpose of conferencing and our efforts to engage families.
 - What is the primary goal and target of current conferences? – A goal is for students to take responsibility of their own learning.
- Conference checklist looked familiar, although looks like it could be more geared for an elementary school.
- Question – Does the conference model need to be uniform across the four middle schools?
 - What should be similar?
 - What can be different?
- Liked the code of conduct for conferencing.

Related to Systems Alignment

- Question – Does each school need to use the same conference model based on what suits them best – knowing that there are so many models out there?

Related to Homework

- Chapter 11 – Homework Checklist – Do we have common language and expectations across the schools that staff, students, and families understand?
- Homework/work completion as a part of the conference model to build common understanding of expectations.
 - Liked the homework survey.

Related to current BSD programs/practices

- AVID – reading about AVID in the book built a better understanding of AVID.
- Question: What programs/structures do we already have in place that aren’t connected to the building or the system that could help?

Related to surveys

- Surveys – When you go to analyze the surveys, what is the lense/focus?
- Parent Review Survey – Consider that the questions should go to the student, not just the parents. (Page 307)

Construction of Models

Tom modeled the use of a thinking map to show a process for drafting a model of family engagement for middle schools.

Clarifying questions related to content and process were asked and discussed.

Small group task – Small groups gathered to create models of family engagement to address the purview of the committee purpose. Groups were asked to begin in the process of creating a model to address the following questions:

What is it that we want to achieve?

What components are necessary to achieve?

Groups worked collaboratively the remainder of the meeting time. Continued time will be needed for the work around the models.

<u>Group 1</u>	<u>Group 2</u>	<u>Group 3</u>
Jeannie	Kenn	Ann
Andrea	Teri	Cat
Peggy	Laurie	Criss
Karen	Ronnie	Chuck
Ben	Josh	Sara
	Tina	

Next Steps:

The work of the committee will continue after the winter break.

Members will receive an email asking if they would like to continue involvement.

Meeting date/time will be provided.