

DMS SBIT Notes

12-9-07

Attending:

Kelly Spooner, Leanne Masterjoseph, Anne Hogsten, Faith Leitner, Allie Dietz, Faith MacDonald, Lisa Switz, Ruth Walsh, Robin Bressette, Ann Gestrich, Tracy O'Lari, Gail McLeod, Sherry Castodio, Rob Marseglia, Jennifer Middleton

Business Items

Anne Hogsten:

Update on Literacy

38 parents attended the Language Arts night
10 children were brought to the childcare to do arts and read books with Betty Pacelle
There will be another possible night in the spring

Math night is January 16th for elementary

There will be hands-on activities

There will be childcare provided

Kelly Spooner:

Update on technology

There is a call into LEARN for a Smartboard

We are moving forward with a piece of equipment

Waiting for approval with LEARN

Confident the smartboard will be put into place this year

\$1,500 from PTO for the literacy lab for leveled texts, decodable texts, and multiple copies texts

Kelly increased this amount from our own budget

Teachers will be given a tour of this new literacy lab

Discussion Items:

MRSA

Leanne Masterjoseph updated everyone on the District's work with regard to MRSA. District wanted to take a proactive approach with regard to staph infections in school. No reported cases so far. Stonington is taking a three-pronged approach:

- 1) Formal Instruction. Effective Handwashing. Length of time, rubbing hands under water, soapy water. Didn't do it in all the same way. HS not as receptive to hand washing instruction.
- 2) District close look at how we clean & disinfect common spaces,
- 3) Raising community awareness about MRSA. How keep families healthy at home.

Know that with Staph, it could happen.

Instructional Improvement Plan

Kelly Spooner

Review of the different goals that are being focused on in DMS (from handout).

Lots of focus and time being devoted to these goals. Work connected to goals in terms of Math Minds ... In 4th grade, based on CMT scores, teachers have put them into specific groups. Twice a month children go to different room w/ different teacher, and so are homogeneously grouped.

Areas looking for improvement, working with peers at same or similar level. Students have given good feedback to this differentiated instruction. Apt to be able to answer question. The opportunity to be able to answer question is very important to them and gets good responses from a child. There is a feeling of excitement. It is a very positive experience.

Grade level meetings devoted to specific skills and strategies to enhance instruction to promote gains for students where experiencing difficulty.

After school program

Chinese language class was a great success. It was an opportunity for 3rd & 4th graders, 18 children signed up for class, beginning to wind down, children excited, hope to continue in spring.

Faith: Good, inexpensive source of French & Spanish teachers would be AP students at HS who need to do community service. National Honor Society. 40 hours of community service. cpacheco@stoningtonschools.org cost of materials, etc.

Book talks at DMS

DMS community is having Book talks. Currently Reading Zone by Nancy Atwellis. New and interesting about conversation that has been sparked. It has been an enriching conversation, with discussion about how to make it happen or not happen. Nancy Atwellis has good ideas, but is not in tune with comprehension questions. DMS is looking at ways to mesh the two.

Professional development reading that makes everyone question the process. It was interesting to focus on an author where everyone doesn't necessarily believe in what the

author is talking about. Mostly “preaching to choir”, Good discussion because this isn’t like that.

Leslie Buck Day

How wonderful our Leslie Buck day was. Celebration for children of reading. This is the best day ever, bubble man, reader’s theater, storyteller, Wonderful enriching day for the children.

Cultural enrichment.

Chinese dancers Jan 4, Cool Cat Dancers.

It’s Up to Me

Continue to move forward with It’s up to Me! Being utilized throughout building and not just in classrooms. Children are adding one more thing to the program, which is that it feels better to be in blue in green. Big message to those students who might not always know how to be included. Without them even knowing an exclusion. Lots of positive feedback. Great bridge to home.

Other SBIT & BOE Updates

West Vine focused on budget development, goals and things like to see

West Broad: Parent student book chat night. Time when parents and children come together and have experience around common story. Theme self-esteem, parent group, student group. Parents focused on how increase self esteem, students create small book activity what’s important about them. The important book. Different things in world are different and special. 2nd in their experience in parent student book chat.

Middle school SBITS are focusing on how to work together, Parent as partners, identified issues pertinent to students, MMS has agreed. MMS continues to look at after school programs.

High School. No report

New Parent membership.

Joanne Moukawsher

Mary Coyne

Passed unanimously. Motion by Faith, seconded by Ruth

Joanne interested in Foreign Language. One of the hardest things, where the teachers have the language. Incorporated in day to day things. French weeks, Day in French, Depends on whether the teachers are comfortable. Very basic French days. In K.

Mike McKee will share his Trip to China Thursday and at our next SBIT.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20.