

Education Committee Minutes

Tuesday, April 5, 2022, 6:30 PM

Old Nokomis

Members Present: Ryan Parker, David Cameron, Mark Guzzi, Jess Hawthorne, Robin McNeil, Jenny Watson

Members Absent: (Excused) Susan Buck & Alyssa Worster

Others Present: Mike Hammer, Lori Merrow, Jane Stork, Kasie Giallombardo, Kelly Burns, Hilary McBreairty

I. Public Comment - None

II. Professional Development - Kelly Burns and Marcia Boody

The Education Committee received a presentation by the Professional Coaching staff to discuss the Professional Development currently being engaged in by staff throughout the District to provide a sense of the breadth and depth of the coaching program.

This year, the coaches have been working on a project that is funded by a grant obtained by Mrs. Burns, Mrs. Boody, and Mrs. Merrow which provided the opportunity for intensive PD for coaches. Originally, this was led by Mrs. Burns, but at this point in the year the rest of the coaches are taking a leadership role in their own PD. They have been meeting once per month throughout the year as a team working on their own skills (while still coaching) and now they are taking what they have learned into the different buildings throughout the District.

The biggest focus of this PD is to help the coaches help the teachers provide the right feedback, with the right words, at the right time to help individual students. This has been working (staff provided several examples and quotes from teachers-included with Board packet) and it is also creating a ripple effect. A coach helps 1 teacher, then that teacher models for colleagues and the techniques spread throughout the District.

Mrs. Giallombardo, who is the Literacy Coach at the high school, does a lot of work with teams of teachers across subject areas. The idea is to build consistency while guarding individuality so each teacher can bring their own strengths and style to the classroom but students with different teachers still wind up with the same knowledge base when they finish a class/semester.

In addition to working one on one with teachers, our coaches participate in direct interventions, both to help specific students but also to test their coaching and be reviewed by peers, as well as to model for teachers. This is really paying off in accelerating students. Again, several examples were given, and Mrs. Stork provided feedback about the impact this is having at EDS.

Mrs. Stork and the coaches also discussed the importance of their collaboration, which leads to consistency throughout buildings. The coaches praised the administrators for all of their hard work to know what their teachers are doing, know what their teachers need, and how that need is driven by what students need.

A big focus and one of the intervention tools is focused on making students the teachers. An example of this is a class of high school students that Mrs. Giallombardo teaches. They are going to travel to Hartland to work with younger students on their literacy. This provides benefits for both age groups.

Next year, the second year of the aforementioned grant, the coaching staff will be focusing particularly on the special ed staff and their PD, to which both teams are looking forward.

In light of the Budget Committee discussions about lack of civility and kindness in the Middle School, there was a discussion about PD related to teachers being able to help with the development of this culture. Teachers are asking coaching staff to pull kindness, civility, citizenship, etc., into their lessons.

III. Other - None

IV. Future Agenda Items - KVCAP Annual Report, Technology - Social Use for Middle/High School Students

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Ryan Parker, Education Committee Chair