

3x5 IMPLEMENTATION STEERING COMMITTEE
Thurs., Feb. 20, 2014
Parr Room
8:00-9:00

Report

Committee members present

Barb Bellamy
Shelley Berman
Randy Bernstein
Cecilia Brands
Chris Castillero
Casandra Kamens
Jon Lauch

Cheryl Linder
Oscar Loureiro
Laurie Moses
Jim Torrey
Carmen Urbina
Cydney Vandercar

Updates and reports

3x5 Implementation Team

Casandra Kamens reported that assistant principals in charge of scheduling along with Cecelia Brands attended a master scheduling workshop in January. She said it was, in addition to being a fine workshop in itself, a good opportunity for the group to discuss issues and plan for scheduling. In March, the group will be trained together on schedule building with Synergy. She also reported that the group has committed to helping each other with scheduling for 2014-15.

Casandra said that the Implementation Team has discussed the following in their recent meetings:

- Course length: Not all schools are scheduling some courses at the same length. At some sites, a course can be two trimesters long, and at other sites the same course can be three trimesters long. She said that the team has agreed on length for most AP and IB classes and is ready to make recommendations on those to the high school principals. Casandra said that the team will likely look at music classes next.

Cydney Vandercar asked that HR be notified as decisions about IB courses are made to that HR can respond more effectively in locating and hiring IB-certified teachers.

- Other: Casandra said that the Implementation Team would also be discussing (1) credit allocations and (2) OAKS testing for juniors and the results of it.

3x5 Teacher Instructional Advisory

Cecelia Brands reported that the Teacher Instructional Advisory is a group of teachers who are passionate about addressing issues related to the 3x5 schedule. One Advisory member has contacted Canby HS because it is a high school comparable to ours in size and it uses the trimester schedule; she has provided the Advisory with information about the school. The

Advisory will be looking more closely at how Canby HS works with the trimester schedule, aiming to learn from their staff experience and their ways of operating on the trimester.

Cecelia also reported the following:

- There is an interest in looking at how courses can be re-organized so that the traditional two-trimester version of courses is modified into two stand-alone courses. She said that this would free up the schedule some, especially to support elective programs.
- Teachers will be given opportunities to use extended contract time (rather than release time) to collaborate on the 3x5 implementation. The additional time would be for teachers to re-align curriculum for the 3x5 and address other instructional issues related to the transition to the 3x5.
- An issue to keep in mind is the difficulty for teachers to move and plan from one term to the next when the class assignment is substantially different from one term to the next.

Other

- Chris Castellero said that work is happening to determine whether Algebra 1 will be two trimesters or three trimesters long. He said that the issues and ramifications around this decision are complicated and multiple.
- Laurie reported that she has been reporting on the 3x5 implementation to JCAC and will be doing so to the Superintendent's Student Advisory Committee.

Data

Oscar Loureiro reported on data showing the number of students enrolled in high school courses and the percentage of each course's enrollment comprised of special education students. Cheryl Linder commented that there are a decreasing number of special education students accessing general education courses. She said that a question is the degree to which the 3x5 is impacting access to general education. There is also the question as to whether rigor is a factor. Cheryl said that in general SPED students K-12 are falling away from general education and falling back into SPED courses.

Oscar also presented data showing how performance in middle school predicts performance in high school. The data indicated that the grade 8 OAKS math test is the best predictor of performance on the high school OAKS math test.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be Thurs., Mar. 20. It was suggested that the agenda then include (1) looking further at data about SPED and (2) look further at demographic data as related to the 3x5 schedule and its implementation.

Submitted by
Larry Brown