

THES thunderboard meeting

10/24/2013

4:15

Present: Britt Adams, Melanie Greene, Betty Weed, Lisa Robertson, Dina Mason, Brittany King, Lisa Etzel, Ramiro Lopez, Edith Rios, Carmen Clavel, Meredith Reid, Camille Clark, Ken Zarifis

Lisa R. explaining expeditionary learning - MOU

supports are stretched, pay partial to join the network, apply for membership the following year & pay remaining for 2014-2015

- coaches can visit campus & learn about community, prepare for official status in 2015-2016

- ILT (instructional leadership team) discussing status and next steps; application included points of entry for each program - this year's entry including dual language to 5th grade, blended learning, and more

Brandon's perspective - do we have a plan if the network membership doesn't happen; we're still understanding the process of being a member school

Lisa E. - reviewing process and status of membership helps us emphasize our eagerness

Lisa R. - expeditionary learning would help tie together other programs, service learning; EL is looking at overall plan and school partnerships are a work in progress, learning progress – long term partnership; \$10K includes coaches and visits, access to EL website with curriculum, programs, lessons & resources
What happens if the 5 year plan doesn't go as scheduled?

Britt – teachers can attend professional development even before THES officially joins network; training helps build excitement – will work on creating a timeline of which staff to send when

Ken – if expeditionary learning hadn't happened, could THES continue with service learning/blended learning? Yes. If EL doesn't work, keep up the energy and redirect or find more resources; use the teachers that have already attended training and they can share their expertise now with teachers that may not be able to access network until next year.

Lisa R. – expeditions, crew, climate, problem/inquiry-based learning: encourages student owned learning and teacher as facilitator; let's look closer to student-based learning and what it means to be instructing student-owned learning

Lisa E. – we can use this year to strengthen current and new systems

Melanie – focus on building depth and reinforcing norms and protocols

Blended learning

Lisa R. - Met with kinder & 1st grade today – staff members are stretching their imaginations and experiences, reconsidering their teaching decisions and what's best for kids to align more effectively with blended learning

Looked at TEMI data, math instruction: kinder results - academically gifted students AND students that struggle with numerical fluency; restricting instructional time – students will be using Dreambox

First grade – Dreambox is adaptive based on student skill and success; platform adjusts next questions based on students' responses and mastery of areas

Data reports can be generated weekly, bi-weekly, which problems or games students focus on or excel in; generate focus groups; tutorials and online lesson plans

First grade: dual language scheduling has created some obstacles;

- implementation of blended learning will look different : reassessing with TEMI, introducing the lab in early November; students can access 60 minutes/week, they can also access from home: independent and guided

blended learning is moving forward; Bravo to kinder & first teachers for learning and willingness; can use experience with achieve 3000 to help with fold out of blended learning

Lisa E. –large group instruction lessened & small group instruction can be more effective; netbooks are in process of being set up, HEAT tickets as needed

Melanie – what's the status of Trilogy donation- \$33,000

Lisa R. – we are following up on that

c.

d. service learning : prek, kinder and first are beginning

prek partnered with nursing home, residents visited THES for lunch; prek students have been visiting;

Ken Z. remarks on how exciting & encouraging the growth and progress over the past 9 weeks! has been for THES

Edith suggests maybe we could present at a conference as victories at in-district charter

Lisa R. – dual language meshes well with service learning and research; grades are meeting together, collaborating on service learning and buddy reading between K & 5th grade

Brandon – building compassion through literacy with the book *Wonder*, how they'll take what they've learned and next steps in the world around us

Ramiro's questions: training for teachers – do teachers that go to trainings come back and share their newly acquired expertise? How can we assure that and reevaluate implementation? So that next year as the membership grows we aren't reinventing the wheel...

Lisa R. – expectation on campus is that those who go to trainings/trips for EL will come back and be a leader on campus; the change will take time and we will see what the change and impact has been as time goes on; let's put this in protocol in written form, let's create a campus climate as a team

e. movement –

Dina - DBI: drama based instruction – grant with 1-3 grades through Travis vertical team; Noah works with first grade

Lisa E. – Noah works with read aloud, readers response, story elements; Noah helps plan and debriefs with teachers after

Lisa R. – Forklift doesn't overlap

Dina – second grade – dance; third grade with Zach Scott during October – aligned with weekly TEKS, teachers continue work through the following months

Lisa R. – grant helps fund trips for students to plays and ballet; emphasis on fine arts – a spring fine arts day is a possible work in progress

Britt – brain breaks are a great inclusion for fine arts

II. Committee reports –

a.

b. Communications & public relations

Ken reports that Facebook should become a platform for sharing information; can we have an app for THES;

- let's work toward packaging THES: DVD
- branding

Let's not let the work of building relationships with community of the past two years, let's revive that and use those relationships to spread the news.

Lisa R. – we're getting good feedback for website

Melanie – be aware of media release consent

Britt – yeah! We've done all of this in the first nine weeks!

Let's do an announcement or review of progress since start of charter

How can we get people here? November presentation?

Lisa R. - Kent is working on compiling video of SEL lessons and No Place for Hate lessons

Ramiro – building leaders each year is crucial; act together and gather primary parents into network

Edith – 1. how do we inform THES community? 2. How do we inform external community about THES?

- SXSWedu could be an option?

Ken – Randi Weingarten of AFT could visit THES; Diane Ravitch –

Lisa R. – former parent, Vivian Ballard & Jimmy Ballard could be a contact for SXS

Melanie – Deb could make powerpoint, Britt says she can give content; parents would like to hear teacher accounts of what’s happening in their room & schoolwide

Brandon – ways to showcase: videos instead of boring powerpoints

Britt – let’s cover all of the points of charter initiatives for November PTA update

Ken – documentary about THES ; great opportunity to show possibilities

Lisa E. – needs to be from school perspective

Lisa R. – Hacademia will be here in November; 11-2 Saturday 16th

- Could recruit/invite teachers for November PTA
- Jan or Feb. could be more in depth

Betty - each regularly scheduled PTA should have a piece for ISP update

Melanie – could we do a potluck? at PTA

Brandon – let’s do booths for each of the charter initiatives at Tamalada!

d. governance/bylaws

Ramiro – we need to decide if we’re a governance board;

Lisa R. – we are a non-profit board & we are using templates from Greenlight

Betty – contacted in-district charters in SA, feedback was that they’re not a board, they are part of an ISD

Lisa R. – we are a team, according to charter signed by Dr. Carstarphen

Ramiro – we need more answers

Melanie – reminder that we need to report in January to AISD board of trustees

Lisa R. – will contact Dr. Cruz regarding status as leadership team, what we need to report in January

Next steps/Action items

Melanie – next Thunderboard meeting November 21.

Before then: PR team needs to meet and work on how to get the word out about how things have changed

Health & wellness co-chairs have met; will meet before November 21

Recess should not be used as a discipline tool.