

Distict Data Team Minutes 5/14/08

Members Present: State Representatives, Pat Proctor and Maria Synodi; Michael Frechette, Barbara Senges, Rich Pelzzar, Gene Nocera, Harold Panciera, Enza Macri, Pam Kahn , Lisa Sherman, Donna Marino, Tracey Koff, Laurie Slade, Dave Gregorewicz, Bob Fontaine

Pat Proctor: Facilitator

Re-introduction of group members: It was commented on that it was a small group, most likely due to training throughout the district.

The Charge and Work of the District Data Team:

- Began with a summary of last meeting where for an intense hour the team created the *Data Team Protocols*
- We are not abandoning our District Improvement Plan as we attempt to map out our goals. We will build on the work that went into creating the D.I.P. and take it to the next level – aligning with the Cambridge Report’s recommendations. We need to honor and recognize that we are one of the most progressive districts in terms of the work that we’ve already accomplished towards improvement.
- The next level will be to examine our plans and take it to the next level. This process is best seen as “prioritizing” or, to use an analogy – “powering” our goals. We need to consolidate improvement plans to deeply build a strategic action plan.
- Brian McNulty spoke at the Board of Education last night about how we need to be the leaders in the district for teaching and learning. We shouldn’t have any more than 3-4 goals in our improvement plan and these should align and be understood across the district – spanning from the Board of Education all the way to the classroom.

Current Goal Language:

- **Tier I:** refers to student academic outcomes for the most part.
 1. start with what we want for kids
 2. goals are specific, measurable, attainable, (SMART) and easily articulated and understood across the community.
- It will take two sessions for us to draft our action plan – Tier I
- Other non-academic outcomes can be part of our plan, i.e., lower suspension rates
- Tier I indicators: to build measurable intentions over time.
- 3 year plan beginning in September.
- AYP progress will be the measure of our success.
- Support Model is what the State is supplying - to help us build success by increments. They are not about making sure we comply with NCLB.
- **Tier II:** refers to what the adults in our community need to do. What strategic work needs to get done.
- The assumption is that if we follow our action plan –kids will improve.
- Our strategic actions need to have high leverage and impact. They need to be research-based. They need to be monitored for fidelity.
- Strategic goals can be adjusted over time.
- They need to be limited and deeply realized by growth in annual progress.
- The work is organic in its progression.
- We will create a final District Improvement Plan
- We can abandon those goals that are unattainable – when the cost benefits are not powerful enough.

- **Data Team Member Defined:** When you're on the data team you represent the district. Aligning what was said to what is done at your building may be one of your roles, but not while at the District Data Team Meeting. The District Data Team is a part of a wholistic accountability model. There are school level data teams, grade level teams and content-based teams in buildings. All teams operate together synergistically. All schools do not have to be represented at the District Data Team – just school levels – i.e, elementary, middle, high school. It's not a legislature-like representation, but more in the sense of an expertise-like representation.
Also, it's a consensus decision-making unit – not a voting group. We unite as a group to keep going in our decision making process until a consensus is attained. Everyone will support the decision. There will be no “second guessing” the decision once it's out into the community.

Preliminary Discussion of SMART Goals:

- Cambridge focused on “prioritizing” DIP goals as a concern with the district.
- Goal setting uses stepping stones as a metaphor, meaning using incremental steps towards progress.
- Clarity – when people are unclear it zaps energy. Clarity motivates.
- Align goal work with expectations from the Cambridge Reports.
- “increase by 5%” is not understandable. We'll have to focus on points themselves. Different plans for different subgroups, so nobody loses and for some there will be acceleration.
- Goals should be attainable and challenging – there's a balance and artistry.
- Pat summarized, “Because we're in NCLB environment, we need to pay attention to different groups' data over time. But on a district level we need to attend to cohort's data.”

Presentation and Review of CMT and CAPT Data

- Small Group Work: Looked at data and identified, discussed and recorded positive data and data that was of concern.
- Reported out to whole group. Barbara will see to it that the recordings are put onto paper for dissemination.

Homework for the group: leveled group members to come prepared in writing with the following – 1) areas of major challenges throughout the district and 2) areas of significant strengths. Everyone needs to be able to present evidence – which can be data, anecdotal, experiential.

K-5 group: Enza, Barbara, Michael, Pam

6-8 group: Gene, Lisa, Tracey, Harold, Donna, Laurie

H.S. group: Dave, Rich, Bob

Barbara will put on the chart the group members who weren't present by the next meeting. She will also inform them of their homework.

Change of Date for the next meeting: We will meet on **May 27th** from **9:00-12:00**