

CAC Retreat Minutes – June 19, 2014

Participants: Wilma Bates, Edward Gold, Barb Jacobsen, Annette Martinez, Rob McDade, Monica Norian, Mark Pickering, Kathy Pierce, Charles Schlenker, Amy Fritson-Coffman, Andrea Markert

Presentations by Principals Fritson-Coffman and Markert-

Each Principal presented the school improvement topics and facility improvements in each school. Both schools have moved to standards based grading, with University High School piloting a new grading program, Teacher Ease. Metcalf will be piloting Chinese in the 6th grad using an instructor through Heartland Community College. Facility improvements included the Outdoor Classroom and the Quiet Room at Metcalf and the renovation of the Student Lounge at University High School.

Communication in the Lab Schools

Much of the discussion in addressing the Lab Schools Areas of Focus centered on streamlining and clarifying communication processes. Amelia Noel Elkins went over responses from teachers on a survey given last spring of topics in which parents have the most questions. Based on those topics CAC members brainstormed on a variety of communication strategies to address the types of issues raised:

Essential Qualities at University High School
Standards based grading
Accessing advanced courses or dual credit courses
Teen social media use trends
College application and financial aid process

Discussion:

Many communication tools have been implemented; updated websites for both schools, a school app at University High School, and social media through Facebook and twitter. While these have been implemented they are not evident in both schools, and their uses do not always seem to address parent communication needs.

Next Steps: Dr. Hill was going to contact the Chair of the Communications Department to determine the feasibility of a communications audit for the Lab Schools that would result in concrete recommendations for continuing to improve communication processes.

Teacher survey out to parents -

Live chats around issues that need clarification

Emails strategically sent to address the issues that have been identified

Parent survey to come out before parent forum

Communication plan - communications grad student - to develop the plan

Metcalf

U-High

Hot topics

Daily or monthly items

Topics for future forums

Is the way we are handling common core and standards based grading appropriate?

Orientation video for newcomers