



April 8, 2021

Board Members:

RE: EARLY MORNING WORK SESSIONS

The Early Morning Work Sessions are a designated time when faculty members who teach the same course have the opportunity to meet to examine multiple data points relating to student success. At the high school level, it is not typical for teachers who teach the same course to have the same preparation period that allows them to meet to have discussions that include all teachers. The Early Morning Work Sessions allow teachers who teach the same course to be involved in consistent instructional planning. Larger departments tend to have multiple faculty members teaching the course; and therefore, the professional learning teams consist of faculty within their school. Departments that offer courses taught by only one teacher tend to connect across the District during Early Morning Work Sessions via electronic conferencing. Prior to the start of the school year, each department chair and principal determine which courses will be the priority for professional learning team discussions during the Early Morning Work Sessions.

The professional learning teams, formed for the school year, focus on one particular course. Information is gathered from multiple sources – including local, District, and national assessments. This information determines areas of focus for increasing student success. The team then investigates the particular instructional choices made by the faculty and the associated success of the learning outcome. Best practices regarding instruction can be determined and then implemented. During institute days, the key instructional practices are shared across all schools.

I am recommending that the District continue 12 morning work sessions during the 2021-2022 school year. These 75-minute sessions would allow professional learning teams to increase the number of students who are meeting the District 211 expectations on the critical learning standards for each course. The teams would evaluate multiple pieces of assessment data, continue the discussion of student performance relative to critical learning standards, and make instructional changes based on evidentiary discussions with colleagues. This is a continuation of the format used for the past seven years prior to the 2020-2021 school year (which was disrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic).

SUGGESTED MOTION:

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to implement 12 morning work sessions, each of which would be 75 minutes, on the following Tuesdays: August 24, 2021; September 7, 2021; September 21, 2021; October 26, 2021; November 9, 2021; December 7, 2021; January 18, 2022; February 1, 2022; February 15, 2022; March 1, 2022; March 15, 2022; and April 19, 2022.

Lisa Small
Superintendent