

DCS Strategic Plan Work Groups

March Updates

There are no February Updates due to weather, meetings were canceled.

College and Career Readiness:

Members: Donna Barber and Maureen Alger (Co-Facilitators), Lisa Hirt, Ed Ludwig, Jamie Doolittle, Katie Pallotta, Pete Camp, Mary Coolbaugh, Rob Neal, Jamie Mody, Julie Arno

The CCR workgroup has been researching tools to assess 21st Century Skills. They viewed a video from East Syracuse Minoa Schools and held discussions on how DCS should assess these skills. We are moving away from looking at one tool in isolation and toward defining what we do from PK-12 and what should be included at each grade level. We also created a chart to organize what we currently do and need to do in the areas of critical thinking, collaboration and creativity.

English Language Arts (ELA):

Members: Jennifer Ladd and Anna Jarvis (Co-Facilitators), Eric Nash, Jennifer Jones, Marcia Ludwig, Regina Raleigh, Melissa Potratz, Zach Miller, Sheri Smith

During the past month our group met with Caite Reeves to make a plan for "powering" ELA standards. She did a "run-thru" demo with our group to show us what the rest of the faculty would be asked to do. During the Staff day that followed, elementary faculty, as well as secondary ELA faculty started the process of actually "powering" the Literature strand of standards. At the most recent SPW meeting secondary ELA teachers were able to complete the first draft of power standards for their grade levels. Over the next couple of months the elementary teachers and 6-12 ELA teachers will work together with Caite to complete the powering process and begin unpacking the standards as we move toward creating a guaranteed and viable curriculum that is aligned with the CCLS>

Home, School and Community Partnerships:

Members: Meghan Morgan and Brandi Compton (Co-Facilitators), Pam Walter, Shala Wykstra, Lisa Burbidge, Stacy Inman, Judy Buyea, Dan DeGear, Jessica Zech, Sue Brown

We completed our survey. We have submitted the survey to our supervisors for review. We hope to have a timeline for mailing the surveys in April. We have begun the research to explore the best practices that will ensure sustainability and quality partnerships.

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Math:

Amy Prince (Facilitator), Pam Gallerani, Shari Elliott, Linda Ladd, Karen West, Jared Tiffin, Heidi Willcox, Lisa O'Neill, Charles Thornton, Cassidy Richardson, Stephanie Critelli-Locke

The math strategic plan work group is continuing to identify the core knowledge and skills by grade level. Currently, we have finished pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, first grade, and second grade identification of core knowledge and skills. We have almost finished the third grade. We were unable to retrieve the third grade saved data after the new computer was installed. Mrs. Haws is currently trying to retrieve this document for us. We have currently been working on the fourth grade core knowledge and skills. We are almost done with the fourth grade, which we will finish in the first meeting in April. At the next meeting, we will also begin the fifth grade core knowledge and skills.

We have spent a great deal of time trying to translate the standards into language that is easier for all people reading to understand. We have had some great discussions on the common vocabulary that we see from grade level to grade level. We have also identified some gaps and overlaps that we currently see in the different grade levels.

Meeting with teachers of various grade levels and subject areas has been very beneficial. Teachers are able to see what is taught at each grade level. We are also able to see the common vocabulary that we need to use from grade level to grade level to make the understanding and learning easier for the students and teachers.

Social Emotional:

Members: Lisa Stearns and Shannon Forrest (Co-Facilitators), Erin Bartenstein-Brown, Eric Feola, Linda Kelehan, Aleisha Pforter, Molly Hastings, Janet Hathaway, Joe Drake

In March, the Social Emotional Task Force met in the Home and Careers room. We spent our time researching a variety of assessment tools. We gathered a plethora of information that we will bring to our next meeting. At our final March meeting the Social Emotional Task Force met in the Home and Careers room. We spent our time reviewing the variety of assessment tools that we gathered at our previous meeting. We then began to create a child behavior survey for parents to fill out. Our initial thoughts are leaning towards requesting parents to fill out the survey at the Back to School BBQ, open house, or through the mail. We will meet in the Home and Careers room again on April 20th to continue our survey writing.

Student Engagement:

Members: Erin Young (Facilitator), Karen Nieman, Melissa Wheatley, Rachel Hyde, Dana Cole, Doug Pelton

Erin Young will be out for the remainder of the school year. Doug Pelton has agreed to facilitate the group for the remainder of the year.

In March, the group spent time creating a survey to gather data on existing state of student engagement in the school, local and global communities. They also reviewed and collected tools to measure student engagement in class. This work group is interested in working with other groups to discuss how student engagement fits into their work. The group has also created a timeline of tasks to complete by the end of the year.