

Collaboration Update

December 15, 2010

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A collaboration committee that was formed last spring, which includes parents, worked this past fall to explore how Pullman Schools can successfully establish common collaboration time during the regular day. The committee used an approach taught by the *Future Problem Solving Program International, Inc.* to further analyze the need for collaboration and come up with potential options for the logistical structure of this common time.

Future Problem Solving Process

- 1. Identify Challenges** – generate challenges or issues related to the future scene or need area
- 2. Select an Underlying Problem** – focus on one problem area
- 3. Produce Solution Ideas** – generate solution ideas to the underlying problem
- 4. Generate and Select Criteria** – create criteria to evaluate the merit of the best solution ideas
- 5. Apply Criteria to Solution Ideas** – evaluate solution ideas using criteria to rank order them
- 6. Develop an Action Plan** – based on the highest scoring solution idea, develop an action plan explaining how the solution will work and describing how the problem will be solved

Based on the work the committee did during the 2009-10 school year, the following *Problem Statement* was developed.

*In November of 2008, Pullman Public Schools reviewed and revised its Strategic Plan. One of the goals we developed includes establishing **High Levels of Collaboration and Communication**. Our current daily schedule does not allow for consistent common time for teachers and principals to work together. **How** might we **provide** teachers and principals with **common time** for professional dialog and collaborative work so that the learning achievement of each student will be positively and significantly improved?*

The committee came up with several ideas and engaged in thoughtful discussion as the process unfolded. The brainstorming process generated a number of different potential options along with suggestions for addressing concerns. A number of possible solutions for providing time for collaboration were reviewed further and included in Step 5 of the process: *apply criteria to solution ideas*. Once criteria were applied to the ideas, the committee selected one to discuss more in depth with the School Board at a Board Work Session. All possible solutions from Step 5 will be discussed with the School Board. The solution idea the committee decided to have the board discuss at length at a Board Work Session was ½ day early release 7 times during the school year. A few of the other possible solutions included 15 minutes early release daily or 30 minutes early once a week, a no-school day once a month, and one hour late start once per week. A formal proposal to the School Board for any one of the possible solution ideas has yet to be developed. The Pullman School District will continue to provide information about the progress of this work as it evolves.