



"Ensuring learning while challenging each student to achieve full potential"

Office of the Superintendent
Pullman School District No. 267
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August 24, 2010

Dear Parents/Guardians,

A collaboration committee that was formed last spring to include parents is continuing to work to explore how Pullman Schools can successfully establish common collaboration time during the regular day. We welcome and ask for your input and participation as we continue this work. Below is a brief summary of the work the committee accomplished during their meeting on August 16, 2010.

Discussion and conversation continued regarding the importance of professional collaborative work that is needed among teachers and principals with the goal of improving student achievement. Based on feedback from our families and members of the community, the committee recognized that the concept of collaboration is valued and an important component of the work of teachers and principals. The committee also discussed the need to find a more effective way to communicate the importance of the collaborative work, what it looks like, and how the daily structure of the school day can support this work.

With this in mind, it was suggested that the committee utilize 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. The committee intends to work through *Future Problem Solving* process and ultimately develop new proposal options for the school board's and your consideration.

The Future Problem Solving Process is as follows:

- 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 the 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

Parent, Megan Brannan guided the committee through a discussion of Steps 1 and 2. The committee came to agreement with Mrs. Brannan's suggestion that these two steps had, in fact, taken place

during the committee's work last school year. Thus, the Underlying Problem was presented as the following problem statement:

*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?*

At the next meeting, the committee will work on Step 3: Produce Solution Ideas. The committee will work through a brainstorming session to generate possible solutions to the problem. This meeting will take place on **August 31 at 3:30 p.m.** in the Barley Room at Pioneer Center, 240 SE Dexter. Your feedback is welcome and may be shared with any of the committee members or sent via email to collabproposal@psd267.wednet.edu.

I would like to express a special note of thanks to Megan Brannan, parent, for her guidance and leadership in walking the committee through the *Future Problem Solving Process*. Thank you, Megan!

Sincerely,



Dr. Susana Reyes
Assistant Superintendent
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Collaboration Committee:

Adrianna DiGregorio, 1st grade teacher, Jefferson Elementary
Erika Boruff, 2nd grade teacher, Sunnyside Elementary
Michael Church, 4th grade teacher, Sunnyside Elementary
Sadie Boone, 3rd grade teacher, Franklin Elementary
Laurie Stegner, English teacher, Pullman High School
Katharine Covill, Orchestra teacher, all schools
Tiffany Gerl, Art teacher, elementary schools
Sally Arthurs, Parent
Tina Zweigle, Parent
Laurel Nickels, Parent
Carin Pavish, Parent
Claudia Mickas, Parent
Megan Brannan, Parent
Brian Moore, Principal
Craig Nelson, Principal
Rick Bates, Principal
Cameron Grow, Principal
Joe Thornton, Principal