

Ansonia District Data Team Minutes

January 14, 2010

Meeting began promptly at 8:45.

Team members present:

Carol Merlone	Diane Conway
Kathie Gabrielson	Susan McKernan
Michele Fraher	Kathy Carey
Terri Goldson	Larry DiPalma
Lyn Le	Laura Lane
Fran Adjei	Diana Brancato
Renee Efthymiou	Nick Collicelli
Lynn Bennett-Wallick	Kathie Gabrielson
Eileen Ehman	Joe Dobbins

SDE Consultants/Executive Coaches present:

Heather Levitt Doucette
Patty Foley
Jerry Auclair
John Mudry

Review of Agenda/Minutes and District Norms

Minute Taker-Michele Fraher
Time Keeper- Kathy Carey

Celebrations:

- Huge meeting room in Central Office Annex – soon to be our meeting place
- CALI Showcase Conference Presentation – April 28 and 29, 2010
- Video clip of DDT analyzing Nov. LA Benchmark Data –discussed strengths (good rich discussion about instruction and specific types of strategies, benchmarks and our new curriculum, discussion similar to what happens in BDT) Weakness –AMS felt need for small group discussion centered around grade levels
- Data Wall in Central Office (CAPT , CMT and Benchmarks)
- Created Banners of our Mission Statement displayed in schools and city hall
- Supt. Merlone has involved mayor and community leaders in district educational goals so we can work collaboratively to improve our schools
- AHS Math Department – developed their after school program based on student data
- Jerry Auclair agreed to be executive coach for Sue McKernan

Attendance and Discipline:

- Eileen Ehman's Attendance Presentation: (see hand outs) Attendance Project looks at school attendance. 28 districts are involved in this project. We receive a great deal of technical assistance, attend retreats and find greatest areas of need. For example, transition between grade 8 and 9 and high school. We realized we need consistent data, so we acquired Win School and worked on improving attendance policy focused on K-8, data driven planning grants. High school attendance policy taken down to the 8th grade. If a student misses more than 8 days of school, the student fails to meet the attendance policy. Sent out flyers to parents explaining policy which includes a parent/guardian sign off. Sue shared AHS student success story: student is now Co-charie of Human Relations Club. We are striving for 95% students to be in school.
- Present Attendance Highlights(data taken over 4 year period) AMS –absences dropped over 3 percentage points, sped and ELL attendance rate dropped as well. Elementary level- attendance for low income students dropped over 4 percentage points. AHS- still a concern re. 9th grade into 10th grade. Suggestions: Larry DiPalma suggests AHS check staffing and courses taken by these students having attendance problems, John Mudry suggest identifying 30 -40- students at high risk and buddy them up with juniors and seniors to work with students during study halls
- Sue McKernan – every 4 tardy equals one absence, no penalty for 16 absences, first tardy given letter to take home to parent, second time third time- detention, 4th time student and parent meet with Sue, principal.
- Discipline Data to be examined next month. Diane Conway suggests Joe Dobbins would be a good chair for this committee

Parent Involvement:

- Kathy Carey collected data from school principals from fall teacher conferences
- Larry DiPalma –Prendergast data collected by grade level (see handout table and bar graph), very encouraging that free and reduced parents came in for conferences.
- Terri Goldson – Mead error first column should be 666 not 566 (see handout) pretty good turn out compared to those students who do not receive free and reduced lunch. Overall 90% of parents showed up.
- Lynn Bennett Wallick –(see handout) AMS- not happy with data, gives free homework pass and do not receive report card without parents coming , but parents just picked up report card and did not see the teacher. Had more Pre K parents there than middle school parents. Data identifies problem of parent involvement at AMS.
- Joe Dobbins – AHS – (see hand out) 335 parents showed up for conferences. Correction on Free and Reduced: 152 in grade 9 ; 102 in grade 10; 87 in grade 11; 78 in grade 12 = total of 419 parents attended out of that number the free and reduced # of parents that attended was 59 (13.7%)
- Diane Conway – What do we want to do with this data, does DDT take this on or pass this over to the School Data Teams to work on with the 5 step process? LBW feels we should hold off until we get Kathy Carey's data, as we need more data to determine the DDT's role and the school's data team role.
- Kathy Carey needs to form a Parent Involvement Committee with representation from each building. Suggestions for this committee: Parent PTO involvement, administrators can look into this, unified arts teachers because they see all students, social workers and school psychologists, Margo at elementary level. Other Suggestions – Kathy should create an outline of the goals and objective of the

committee to present to prospective members, offer refreshments, offer some type of a “hook” before people are assigned to committee.

- Sue McKernan agrees there needs to be a hook to get more parent involvement during conferences and AHS is working on a plan
- Kathy Carey – How Welcoming is your School – she will begin surveys with AMS and AHS and form those committees first, by April 8th committees will be formed and surveys be distributed and collected so she can report out to the DDT.

SRBI:

- Amy O’Brien gave an update on SRBI: SERC came in to provide workshop at Mead and Prendergast. We developed a Task Force whose goal is to create uniform practices in all schools. though we recognize a clear distinction needed between grade levels. We are moving along and putting things in place, we created a schedule and hired strong teachers. Need to find time for teacher and interventionists to collaborate. We know what we need:-assessments, behavioral intervention.
- Patty Foley- Ansonia is moving along and does have a lot in place. Key is to address core instruction.
- Larry DiPalma – SRBI provides another support for child. Teachers and interventionists talk and collaborate on what is being done for the child.
- Renee Efthymiou- Interventionists and tutors have a more clear focus and purpose.
- Diane, Lynn and Bobby Lisi going to SERC meeting to launch PBS at AHS next year.
- Terri – Amy meets with teachers, interventionists, students and follows up on conversations. SRBI is her “baby.” She has taken off with it and is doing a great job!
- Larry – Liz schedules and screens students, also doing a great job.

School Data Team Reports:

Lynn Bennett Wallick: Report on CIT: –SERC Training at AMS on Jan 19th.

Walk through patterns overall good (see hand out): gradual release, graphic organizers, more advanced discourse, more peer sharing.

Benchmark Data- examined during department meetings and identified what they saw and what they have not taught.

SDT goals matched to DDT plan goals and will align building needs with district requirements.

Sue McKernan (see hand out) Walk Thru Protocol: meet with DATA team and showed it to them, so the information was explained. Saw evidence of Gradual Release Model (scaffolding and modeling is missing at high school level). Non-Fiction Writing is seen universally in exit tickets, journal writing, Y.E.S. Teachers still lecturing.

School data Team: Talked about discipline and attendance and are aligning school goals to district goals.

Reviewed mission statement and each instructional data team’s successes and supports (see report for each content area)

Larry DiPalma: CIT report- Jan. 12th six students brought to the process. Of those 6, stopped process for one of those students because of record issues. One student exited form process because of behavioral strategies used and mother put him on meds. Presently 4 students are in process

Data Teams: Evidence 23 classes using Gradual Release, Evidence of Guided Reading in 8 classes, non fiction writing in 14 classes. Larry did a total of 23 walk throughs.

Building Data Team – Analysis of Nov. Benchmarks, discussed item data and strand data. (see hand out)

Diane recognized CFA's were on one GLE instead of two or more , so now there is a change to broaden assessment as aligned to bi-monthly GLEs.

BDT brainstormed and came up with ideas for addressing weak GLEs and LA strands (develop a strand question of the day, discuss and model good responses....see hand out)

Terri Goldson: Data Team Process- opportunity to self evaluate using rubric and each team will receive evaluation from Emily. Overall Teams developing pre- and post-assessments, went over new process identifying three or four GLEs, strategies used similarities, graphic organizers, gradual release, non fiction writing seen through Walk Thru Data.

BDT focus on small group instruction – base line data (see handout). Goal set to increase from 62% to 70%.

Each grade level is focusing on different GLE's as determined by November benchmarks.

Benchmark Testing – identified weak GLE's and strands and matched them up in December, noted some of GLEs that were weak were not prioritized in the curriculum, but found they were all connected, looked ahead to the next GLE and some teachers have done some prior work with them.

John Mudry – attends CALI meetings and believes Central Office has set a good model in place and he credits leadership and asks us to be patient with where we are going. Ansonia is doing a good job.

Diane: Clearly hears that from principal reports there is communication between 3 levels: Evidence of DDT goals are seen in School Improvement Goals and focus of Instructional Data Teams. School and Instructional Data Teams are communicating. Principal reports are providing information about School and Instructional data Teams to the District Data Team.

NEXT STEPS – February 11, 2010

- **Analyze Data:**
 - DIBELS and DRA2
 - Discipline data (ED 166 forms) / establish a discipline committee
- **Monitor DIP Action Steps:**
 - Report on *School Data Team* and *Instructional Data Team* progress using SDE Rubrics.
 - Evaluate *District Data Team* progress using SDE rubric.
 - Document opportunities for teachers to observe model practices in other classrooms.
 - Report outcomes of vertical Literacy Council Meetings.
 - Report curriculum development progress: LA, math, science

Meeting adjourned at 11:49 am