

District Leadership Team (DLT)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 21, 2010

I. Call to order

Dr. Jayne Purcell called to order the regular meeting of the District Leadership Team at 6:35 P.M. on **Thursday, January 21, 2010** in Dolton School District 148 District Office.

II. Introductions & Welcome

Dr. Purcell opened the meeting by welcoming each member of the team. Dr. Purcell introduced Daphne Sajous-Brady, a doctoral student from Northwestern University who would like to do her research project at Roosevelt Elementary School. Ms. Sajous-Brady described her project titled, African-American English and Reading Achievement. Ms. Sajous-Brady explained that her research focuses on the relationship between language and the development of reading skills.

III. Research Request

Ms. Sajous-Brady would like to do her research project titled, African-American English and Reading Achievement at Roosevelt Elementary School. Ms. Sajous-Brady explained that her research focuses on the relationship between language and the development of reading skills.

Mrs. Jackson asked about assessing the students. Ms. Sajous-Brady explained that she would be administering a battery of language, reading and writing test, many of which are norm-referenced (e.g., Gates-McGinitie Reading Test, Woodcock-Johnson Achievement Battery) in addition to, other tests designed by Ms. Sajous-Brady to assess specific aspects of Standard-American English and African-American English.

Asked about the time frame regarding the study, Ms. Sajous-Brady explained that ideally, all data would be collected within a two-month time frame between January 2010 and April of 2010. She assured Mrs. Jackson that the District would receive a copy of her results.

IV. Policy Updates

Mrs. Jackson indicated that the new policies presented would be sent to the Board of Education for first consideration on Thursday at the regularly scheduled board meeting.

V. Strategic Planning Process

Dr. Purcell asked each District Leadership Team member to introduce themselves and to state where they worked. After introductions were completed, Dr. Purcell introduced Dr. Barb Habschmidt. Dr. Habschmidt has been working with Dr. Purcell and Dr. Moore on creating a district Strategic Plan. Dr. Habschmidt explained to the group that we would be working in four (4) areas:

1. Overview of Strategic Plan
2. Summary of the Results
3. Review of the District Improvement Plan
4. Draft of Initiatives

Dr. Habschmidt explained that the “**End Purpose**” of the Strategic Plan is to provide all stakeholders with a roadmap for continuous improvement. She went on to explain that the bulk of the work falls on teachers, but that the vision, mission and the “GPS” has to be a district-wide focus that addresses a 3-5 year focus of where the district is going and why?

The essential question is – What does the District need to do to continue to improve in the next three-five years? She explained that success has to be continuously addressed....or you “flat line.”

The next question was; where are we now? Dr. Habschmidt explained that she looked at six components that create a systemic approach.

Six Components	Missing the Component leads to:
1. Organizational Foundation	Confusion
2. Ownership and Involvement	Anxiety
3. Improvement Focus	Resistance
4. Resources	Frustration
5. Craft Knowledge	Exhaustion
6. Accountability	Aimlessness

Dr. Habschmidt summarized the results of her interviews with Principals and staff. Her results showed that the district was meeting the first five systemic approach components:

1. Strong mission and vision
2. Very dedicated and talented staff
3. Sound improvement focus
4. Resources used wisely (even though there is never enough money)
5. Solid Professional Development initiatives

The component though, that Dr. Habschmidt found missing, was accountability. She defined accountability as the formal procedures which utilize a district-wide, quarterly review process that provides Superintendents, Principals and staff with critical information for making progressive decisions. There has to be a formal procedure for the review of individual student data.

Each group was given the task of coming up with three to five initiatives which would ensure District 148 continued success over the next three – five years. As groups presented, one theme that appeared to run through each group’s presentation was the need for more collaboration between grade level staff and buildings, in addition to mandated and continuous professional development for all administration and staff in all areas. (e.g., Response to Intervention, Positive Behavior Intervention Support, Success for All, and all academic curriculum areas)

Dr. Habschmidt will be contacting Dr. Purcell to put together a group of teachers and principals that are willing to continue to work on formally formatting a District Strategic Plan.

VI. Upcoming DLT Meetings

April 22, 2010

The meeting was adjourned by Dr. Purcell at 8:33 P.M

Minutes submitted by: Cynthia Marks

Minutes approved by: Dr. Jayne Purcell