

MEMO

TO: Leicester School Committee
FROM: Judy Paolucci
DATE: January 6, 2017
RE: District Improvement Team Report

The District Improvement Team met on January 5th and was tasked with identifying accomplishments (this year, rather than cumulative) and challenges for each of our district goals. This report summarizes these discussions.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Strategic Objective: Engaging Instruction and Effective Interventions Grounded in a Rigorous Curriculum
ELA and math curriculum nearly complete. Science will be complete at the end of this year.
Training is continuing on the workshop model for grades K-8 (math and ELA at the middle school grades).
Spanish and French are now being offered at the middle school.
Teachers at LHS, LMS, and LMemS have participated in Google summits, tech integration specialist at LHS has supported teachers' use of Google tools, TLC (Technology Learning Community) at LHS continues to provide training to teachers, new library media specialist at LMS provides tech support to middle school teachers. Some support provided to K-5, but limited by staffing.
This is the first year of Project Lead the Way (PLW) STEM curriculum at the middle school. 21st century engineering/STEM curriculum is limited to one unit at the middle school. New science kits for K-5, to be implemented over this year and next year, integrate engineering. Grants for PLW expansion at LMS and initiation at LHS have been submitted.

Library Task Force continues to meet to ensure forward momentum with library improvements is continued. Memorial and LMS library facilities have been improved, LPS and LHS plans are being developed. New library media specialist at LMS has improved library programming.

Music programming has increased dramatically.

RTI for grades K-8 continues to improve.

PBIS model has been implemented in grades PK-5 and will continue to be developed next year. Engaging classrooms provided training to middle school teachers and this, additionally, will be continued next year. Behavior has improved dramatically.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Strategic Objective: Development of Staff Skills Through Effective Feedback and Training

Collaborative analysis of common assessments is a regular practice throughout the district.

Once per quarter, high school department members share student work and how common rubrics are being used.

Mentor program has been improved and serves new teachers well.

Tech badges acknowledge educator success with technology at the high school.

The high school TLC continues to provide teachers with an opportunity to share best practices with technology integration.

Teachers from LHS, LMS, and LMemS have attended GAFE summits (Google).

Comprehensive PD plan has been developed.

Engaging Schools has provided middle school teachers with student engagement strategies.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Strategic Objective: Improved Infrastructure and Resources

HS roof project is complete. Pavement in front is complete but some parts must be redone in the spring.

LMemS and LMS libraries have been renovated. LHS and LPS library renovations are being planned. Conference rooms at LHS and LMemS are improved. Memorial School behavior room was completed this year.

Painting projects have improved look of gym and hallways at LMS.

Continued growth of music programming is limited by the available staff.

Investigation into how art programming may be expanded has not yet occurred. This may be continued to next year

Partnerships continue to be developed. I.e. QCC partnership, Community Health Link, DA's Office

1:1 Chromebook program has been established for the high school and technology options for other schools continue to be expanded.

CHALLENGES

The writing goal was not addressed and time is unavailable to address this goal this year. This could, potentially, be moved to the next action plan.

No research has been done yet to investigate options for adding world languages at the elementary level. Staffing for this initiative is a challenge.

Support for K-5 technology use is limited by available staffing (no library media specialist, no technology integration specialist)

Library media specialist for LPS and LMemS is needed.

Cost for replacing carpeting and furniture and for painting at LPS and LHS may be prohibitive. We may be able to do this stepwise.

Continued growth of music programming is limited by the available staff.

Investigation into how art programming may be expanded has not yet occurred. This could, potentially, be moved to the next action plan.

RTI for grades 6-8 is limited by staffing. Math interventionist and reading teacher only do RTI work part time and teach classes for the other part.

We have not yet initiated an enrichment/exploratory task force and/or develop and expand opportunities for extended learning for students. This is challenging since we do not have resources to dedicate to this initiative.

The current state of transition planning for LHS and LMS (special education) must be assessed to determine next steps.

We need to assess the need for further training/formalization of using common assessments for goal setting.

Mentoring program is unavailable for new nurses or for other district staff.

More specific ways to acknowledge staff success are needed.

We lack a comprehensive, facilities master plan that includes yearly tasks as well as short term and long term facility repairs.

Training on grant writing should be repeated some time soon.

Without a dedicated grant writer, larger grants are difficult to obtain.

We are not explicitly tracking grant writing to ensure that at least one grant per school is written per semester.

Ensuring that money is well spent on facility upgrades of old buildings is necessary.