

Professional Development Leadership Team
November 24, 2015
Agenda

Members present: Christy Beck, Damian Sobolik, Diana Stroud, Juli Wardner, Tammy Sadowsky, Naomi Thorson, Sara Berglund, John Abrahamson, Barb Binstock and Melanie Kathrein

PDLT Purpose

- To provide input on district-wide professional development needs and the use of district professional development days
- To communicate needs and professional development plans

DPS Professional Development Philosophy

Professional development in Dickinson Public Schools should:

- enhance student learning
- focus on the use of best practices
- be linked to school improvement
- be sustained over time
- include teacher collaboration

Meeting norms

- Start and end on time
- Keep side bar conversations to a minimum
- Be honest

1. Calendar Input

The group discussed the placement of the four professional development days for the 2016-17 school year. The recommendation the PDLT will make to the Calendar Committee is to have two professional development days in August prior to the start of school, a day on October 3, and a day on either January 16 or 23. The group suggested that the January In-service day be set on a Monday between the two semesters but not during the week of Parent Teacher Conferences in the K-6 Schools. In regard to Early Release Days, the committee felt that October 19 should be considered. Melanie will share this information with the Calendar Committee.

2. Mental Health Training

- January In-service

All teachers in the district will participate in Youth Mental Health Training for four hours. Teachers of grades 6-12 will participate in the Mental Health First-Aid Training. The full

training is eight hours so there will be four hours this year and four hours next year. The maximum group size for each training session is 30. We will need two sessions in the morning and two sessions in the afternoon to train all teachers in grades 6-12. Teachers from grades 6-8 will train from 7:30 – 11:30 and teachers from grades 9-12 will train from 12:00 – 4:00. The length of the contract day will be adjusted to make up for the change in starting or ending time.

Teachers of grades K-5 will participate in training through local experts who will share information about mental health issues of elementary age students.

3. Danielson Framework

- Ongoing Training
 - Building Input

Building representatives were asked to bring input from their building regarding training needs on components of the Danielson Framework that will be added next year. The recommendations from the group included: questioning and discussion techniques, student engagement and training on Specialist Rubrics. Melanie shared a document with descriptions of training offered by the Danielson Group on specific components from the Framework. The group felt the training titled Student Engagement matched the needs expressed by their buildings.

- Teachscape

The group indicated that the training went fine but few committee members had used Teachscape at this time. As a result, most were unable to comment on the effectiveness of the training. One committee member had used Teachscape and felt it was fairly easy to navigate. There were questions regarding the specificity needed in answering the questions on the Pre- and Post-Observation forms. Melanie explained that the answers to the questions are just to give the Observer a frame of reference regarding what the students have been working on, what type of needs exist in the classroom, and how the teacher is working with students to meet their needs. Committee members shared that principals are only asking for a couple of sentences for each answer and that teachers should not spend more than 20 minutes completing a form.

4. District Professional Development 2016-17

The committee decided that one day prior to the start of school should be used for the Student Engagement training offered through the Danielson Group. One day in August would be used for training teachers of grades K-5 and the other for teachers of grades 6-12. The second professional development day in August would be used to address building level needs.

In addition, the group decided that the teachers of grades 6-12 would complete their Mental Health First Aid Training on October 3. All schools will use a portion of the October day to review data.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be after the start of the 2nd semester. The group will discuss additional professional development needs for the 2016-17 school year and will also review the PD / PLC Survey and other professional development evaluation options. The date will be determined using Doodle.