

Communique from Common Core Steering Committee Meeting Jan. 26, 2015

The Steering Committee met Monday after school at the District Office.

- The group discussed concerns expressed about Infinite Campus report cards. Andree Grey will be reconvening the elementary report card committee (with some additional members) to give input on the structure of the report cards. The meeting will also include Ingrid Taylor and the district's computer programmer, so prompt actions may be taken on some suggestions, and other ideas can be evaluated or developed for the future. Input from parents will also be considered. Joe Balleweg is putting together an "End Users" group of teachers to offer feedback and suggestions for the Infinite Campus system. Other employee groups are being gathered in "End Users" groups, too. Infinite Campus training for individuals or for PLC teams continue to be available by request.
- A Common Core refinement day took place this month for K-12 "scrubber" teams. These teams fine-tuned and/or created new CIAs and Summative Assessments as appropriate for 2nd semester, based on the feedback provided via the Google Feedback Document. They made corrections, added work to the google drive (including labeling documents specifically for students or teachers), adjusted pacing schedules, and then read, discussed, made decisions on, and responded to feedback from PLC teams. Teams should review feedback together in the Google Drive. The group suggested teams use time during their LCAP PLC CIA/UPO days to add and review feedback.
- Joe Balleweg reported that the Governor's proposed budget (note this must be approved by California's Congress) includes more money designated for Common Core implementation in 2015/16. As more information becomes available, the CCSC will discuss and make decisions on how additional funds will be spent. These funds must be used for additional technology, ELD and science standards implementation, resources, and professional development. A separate fund is also proposed by the Governor to build and improve technology infrastructure on school campuses.
- Smartboard meetings (TVUSD Users' Group) at the DO have taken place every Wednesday after school for the last few months, and will continue in the future (calendar being worked on right now). Members of the CCSC indicated there may be interest in meetings at individual sites as well. Jan. 28th training will feature Extreme Collaboration, and all teachers currently using a Smartboard are invited to attend.
- Karen Hogan shared a concise guide to accommodations and universal supports that can be used in Common Core assessments for both general ed and special ed students (see attachment). She reported that all SPED teachers now have access to all Language Arts rubrics for assessments and UPOs. She reported that current IEP goals are being written based on TVUSD writing priority standards, measured by TVUSD rubrics. SPED teachers are now sharing resources specifically for their students on the Google Drive, and they are being archived for future use. SOLO 6 programs that feature "text to voice" are now available for both general ed and special ed students (which can also be customized by teachers to be text-specific).

GoalBook Tool Kits are helping align IEP goals to standards, and have been a valuable resource for SPED teachers.

- Special ed teachers have brought up concerns related to the amount of time it takes to conduct district assessments with their students. Discussion is being planned on how to address this challenge in a February meeting.
- Andree reported that the district has taken steps to get started on initial planning for the Next Generation Science Standards, which are still more than a year away from being activated in California. A group of 16 educators and administrators are attending a conference in February to take steps in understanding the standards and develop a timeline for the future. Meetings and release days have already been set up. The 2015/16 year will focus on getting information out and making plans for implementation in 2016/17.

Future meetings for the Common Core Steering Committee are set for:

- Feb. 23 (at TVEA office)
- April 13 (at District Office)
- May 18 (at TVEA office).

Topics on future agendas include: results of the GO Math needs assessment, report-backs on End User and Report Card Committee meetings, updates on progress reports and report cards, needs for secondary math for SB assessments, and CTA's Common Core Instructional Leadership Corps.

If you are interested in being a part of either the elementary Report Card Committee or the secondary "End Users" Committee, you should express this interest to your principal. Diverse groups of teachers must give input.

Also all CTA members are invited to attend a CTA Common Core Symposium in San Bernardino at the San Bernardino Regional Resource Center on Feb. 21, 9 am to 12 pm. The purpose of the symposium is to "share ideas and learn ways to integrate technology and the Common Core in your classroom." Contact the TVEA office for more information, or to register to attend.