

## Communique from Common Core Steering Committee Meeting Feb. 23, 2015

The Steering Committee met Feb. 23rd after school at the TVEA office.

- Kristan Morales reported on the Instructional Leadership Corps, sponsored by CTA and Stanford University. Four other TVUSD teachers are also a part of this 160-strong group: Raul Miranda (GOHS), Marcia Varner (FVES), Rebecca Scarfone (CHS Math Specialist) and Donna Lione (TVHS Math Specialist). The purpose of the group is to “reclaim the role and responsibility of professional educators in the definition, design, and development of learning opportunities for each other and for the children and families in their care.” Kristan and Donna led 3 workshops for secondary math teachers in November and December, explaining the math shifts required by Common Core and introducing math performance tasks. Temecula’s work will be featured at a conference this weekend for the Corps. A second round of workshops for TVUSD secondary math teachers is being planned.
- Andree Grey shared data from the GO Math needs assessment. Information is still coming in from teachers, but so far 228 responses have indicated a need for further training and more information-sharing on resources available as part of the program. “Scrubber” teams, as a result, have spent time developing day-by-day plans (scope and sequence) for the next math unit for elementary teachers, with all resources listed. After-school trainings focusing on areas of biggest need are being planned, using trainers from GO Math. On March 10 and 12, a trainer from GO Math will be coming to work with secondary teachers after school.
- The Elementary Report Card Committee will be meeting in March. Joe Balleweg reported that work had been done on the secondary report card layout, and a smoother process for filling in work habits, similar to the old one that included “canned comments.”
- Andree reported that 16 district people (including reps from all secondary schools and 3 elementary) attended a recent conference about the Next Generation Science Standards. The standards will have a 4 year roll-out with assessment administration in Spring 2019. The California Board of Education is rolling out this implementation a little slower than the previous Language Arts and Math statewide implementation. The district teachers’ group plans to communicate monthly updates to science teachers, starting next year, and have planned an informational meeting for after school this spring. The focus next year will be on “awareness.”
- Joe shared that honest and productive meetings regarding Infinite Campus have been held with classified staff who use it, and meetings with certificated staff are being set up for the near future. A report created from feedback at the meetings has already led to some “fixes.” The report specifically addresses efficiency, effectiveness, report-building, and the layout of the computer program. (The data programmer has been busy!) Trainings for classified employees who use IC are being offered to address their needs.
- Joe also discussed the Individual Student Assessment Accessibility Profiles needed for each student for CAASPP Smarter Balanced assessments. ISAAP requires setting up accommodations and supports for ALL students. Release time is being scheduled to allow grade level and content alike teams to complete the process together.

- Kristan brought up the needs of secondary math teachers to receive training on using chromebooks for CAASPP. She pointed out that math teachers may not do the testing in their classrooms, but students will seek their guidance in how to use on-line tools, and teachers need to have confidence in answering questions about the testing process. Aimee Ricken supported this idea for not only math teachers, but secondary ELA teachers who will be proctoring the tests in their classrooms. Joe and Andree responded that chromebooks training will be part of the professional development this Thursday and Friday with cohort members, when they will practice and receive training on these very concerns, the tools for testing, and will bring back new knowledge/training for their teams at schools.
- Karen Hogan recounted that SPED teachers (both SDC and RSP) have met with administrators to set up protocol for the district on Common Core assessments for special ed students. Two more meetings will be held to clarify guidelines. Digitalizing district tests may be a result of some of the discussion.
- Chris Lindberg challenged the group to think about the future of collaboration on Common Core instruction. The group believes valuable work has been done during these 2 years, especially in the areas of communication and accountability. The group believes that, after the SB tests this spring, there will be important discussion needed on how effective and useful our district resources have been, and what improvements we can make better instruction. The on-going feedback and discussion between admin and teachers has worked well for this group and enabled rapid responses from administrators and tech experts. Effective avenues for communication are in place now, along with ad hoc committees or groups to work on issues related to report cards and Infinite Campus (end users groups). The cohort groups are a vital, driving force in the process of creating relevant and useful assessments and resources. The group agreed there is a need for more teachers to use the avenues set up for them for communication and revision. There is a belief that more money will be budgeted by the state for this next year of Common Core instruction, and it should be used for training, resources, and technology. (No details are available until after the state passes its budget.)

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

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

Topics on future agendas include: report on (expanded) elementary report card committee, guided reading for elementary grades, more information on ISAAP, and a more concrete plan for the future of this committee (mandated by MOU until the end of this school year).