

Communique from Common Core Steering Committee Meeting May, 2015

The Steering Committee's last meeting was held at the TVEA office on May 18th.

Updates

- The group heard a report on recent well-attended district trainings (Google, Infinite Campus, and Smart Boards). Follow-ups to all of this year's trainings will be offered in 2015/16, and the district has plans to restructure professional development based on teacher feedback. Ingrid Taylor is available to work with teams on planning days on Infinite Campus needs.
- Some sites didn't feel notifications about the professional development opportunities had reached them, so the group discussed how to better reach all teachers. TVEA will include DO trainings on their calendar, when possible, to help with teacher awareness. Suggestions were made to open up other avenues of communication to disseminate training notifications, including sending email notifications directly to department chairs and math specialists, if appropriate, along with site administrators who already receive them.
- Andree Grey brought posters compiled by PLC leaders, elementary ELA specialists, and administrators listing training needs for next year. Teacher feedback indicated an interest in district trainings being held in a variety of ways—some starting in DO sessions, but continuing in smaller groups at sites—and a mix of during-school hours and after-school paid opportunities. Andree said there will be some trainings offered that are important for all teachers to receive, and some math and tech trainings that may be specialized for sites or smaller groups of teachers. Elementary Lit Specialists will offer trainings at sites they work at.
- Math teachers spent 2 days examining other math resources beyond Go Math. It was decided that Pearson's resources are worthy of piloting. Middle school teachers looked at STEM materials as well. Teams of 2 teachers in 2 grade levels at each elementary school will pilot the math materials, while at the secondary level, one math teacher at each level at each high school will participate in the pilot.
- Julie Dixon, math expert, will lead 2015/16 math trainings that focus on instruction methods teachers can use. Dates are still to be determined.
- A likely shift in LCAP funds means that Common Core and General Funds will pick up the cost of CIA/UPO release days for teachers to work on UPO planning and resource development, a continuing need expressed by teachers.
- The CDE will be adopting a list of ELA resources in the fall, so the district can then look into adopting resources. Many of the vendors include technology-based diagnostics that are lexile level-based. When there's a clearer picture of what will be available, alternatives to elementary DRAs can be examined that clearly connect to ELA instruction. Additionally, we all agree increased leveled text at all grades is needed.
- Kristan Morales discussed the need for high school math classes to have access to technology. Especially as technology-embedded resources are being offered by textbook manufacturers, math teachers need the same access to Chromebooks as ELA teachers. The group discussed math placement procedures, and the paths available for intervention, credit recovery when courses aren't passed, summer school, and accelerated instruction. In addition, LCAP funds

have been designated for high schools and middle schools to add a couple courses before and after school, which opens up other paths to succeed in a course. Some teachers felt that there wasn't enough clarity of communication on this to students and parents. LCAP counselors have been working specifically with students who are at-risk, missing school, and failing classes.

- Kristan also reported on CTA's CC Instructional Leadership Corps, which has developed presentations used across the state, including TVUSD. Temecula is becoming known as "cutting edge" in its development of Common Core instruction by teachers!

New Developments

- Teachers on the committee advocated for a method for test coordinators at sites and teachers who administered the tests to communicate feedback on CAASPP testing to the district. Feedback will focus on challenges in the process and suggestions for solutions. Most likely the feedback will come through PLC teams on a google drive form set up for this purpose.
- One strong concern focused on the ELA writing portions of the test that set up in split screens. Although students were able to use an electronic notepad to take notes from text references, many teachers felt students did not use the method of organizing thoughts and writing a draft before typing their responses into the computer. They felt that this did not give an authentic sample of student writing, since teachers in classrooms teach the process that includes these steps.
- Teachers also felt that CAASPP needs to hear teacher concerns about testing. TVEA will work with Diana Damon-White to identify the best way to do this, possibly through a similar process.

Future Collaboration on Common Core issues and concerns

- The group felt the regular monthly Steering Committee communique, which went out to all certificated staff and administrators, was unifying—in that all stakeholders receive the same clear information at the same time. Plans are in process to continue communications, based on discussions of burning issues and current questions, offering solutions for problems as we continue our work in Common Core.
- Next Generation Science Standards intro info has been emailed to all principals to pass on to site staff. Information is set up on the google website, with access for all teachers of science (all elementary teachers are included). The TVUSD Science Curriculum Council has included announcements, videos, sample lessons, and resources in a helpful website that keeps all information in a central location: <https://sites.google.com/a/tvUSD.k12.ca.us/ngss/home>. It is important for teachers to know next year is about awareness and learning the standards. We will not be implementing next year. The future of Common Core Math and ELA communication may look something like this!
- Although the state budget likely won't be passed until June, all indications are positive for continued state commitment to funding Common Core needs.

The Common Core Steering Committee thanks you for your support as we worked these last 2 years to build solutions and respond quickly to Common Core State Standards and teacher concerns!