Communique from Common Core Steering Committee Meeting April 13, 2015

The Steering Committee met April 13 after school at the District Office.

Joe Balleweg reported to the group on the Infinite Campus Teacher User Group. Teacher reps had discussed concern with the many "clicks" that were needed to set up grade books. K-5 teachers were interested in having the programmer create and push out a basic template gradebook specific to each grade level, so this is being looked into for next year. K-5 teachers also want the program to automatically composite the overall score on all CIA and Summative Assessments. Other concerns were expressed by secondary teachers about losing access to a student's scores immediately when the student is transferred out of their class—and about refreshing the program often after inputting scores. Teachers expressed that they'd like to have the program automatically save data entered immediately. Several requests for training and new reports are being worked on. Many positives were noted about IC, as well as these suggestions for improvements. A support folder is available to all on the Google drive, with videos and one-pagers.

Resulting trainings:

 April 28th Gradebook Training for 6-12 Teachers, 3:45 to 5:15 Room D

May 6th Gradebook Training for K-5 Teachers, 3:45 to 5:15 Room D

May 21st Gradebook Training for 6-12 Teachers, 3:45 to 5:15 Room D

May 26th Gradebook Training for K-5 Teachers, 3:45 to 5:15 Room D

Note that the K-5 Grading Window for Report Cards will be open May 27th --June 2nd, and the 6-12 Grading Window for Report Cards will be open May 29th—June 8th.

Andree Grey shared information on the K-5 Elementary Report Card Committee's work since our last meeting. The group came up with a list of requested changes for report cards, specific to different grade levels. Some of the concerns were aligned to concerns from the IC Teacher User Group. Some had to do with better communication with parents and more clarity for teachers. 4th and 5th Grade Teachers need to discuss in PLC teams whether grades should be percentages or letter grades. Some requests related to the life skills sections of the report cards. Changes will be made in next year's report cards as a result of these discussions. One major change would be pushing out a grade book template for teachers with all the categories, CIAs, and Summative tabs/assignments created. The IC Committee is investigating this possibility.

"Next steps" for Go Math are coming soon. Two reps from each site will make up the committee of teachers who work on making decisions on continuing piloting or opening up other choices.

Karen Hogan recounted that SPED is piloting the California Alternative Assessment for SDC students, which is taken on the computer. SDC teachers need to give the assessments and join PLC teams to analyze those assessments. All students need to be given the district assessments. Special Ed teachers

are being encouraged to align IEP writing baselines and goals to be measured by the TVUSD writing rubrics

Elementary teachers have pushed for alternatives to DRAs, which are very time-consuming. Andree said new diagnostics are being considered, some done on computers, but the district isn't ready to make a decision yet on which to purchase, because future Language Arts Adoptions may include a diagnostic. Trainings will be offered on DRAs in 2015/16, focusing on efficiency.

Chris Lindberg led the group to discuss future plans for teacher/admin Common Core collaboration, ensuring teacher voices are part of the process. The Steering Committee, which started with the goal of involving teachers more deeply in the implementation process, has been the reason many of the groups reported about in these Communiques have started. Communication has improved through the monthly CCSC Communiques, Google feedback procedures, and PLC cohort work (with report backs to teams at sites). District admin are working closely with teachers on report card committees and IC feedback discussion groups. Additional trainings on SmartBoards and Go Math came about because of discussions in this group. Members of the CCSC feel at this point many structures are in place to continue the spirit of collaboration on curriculum and instruction.   The group valued that their work has been solutions-based, and has positively affected the work of teachers at all levels. The TVEA CCSC members recommend that regular communication to TVEA members (like this communiqué) regarding Common Core should continue, along with meetings between teachers and administrators when discussion is needed.

The final meeting for the Common Core Steering Committee this year is on May 18 at the TVEA office. Topics of discussion include training needs for next year, LCAP funding that may relate to Common Core instruction and/or resources, and discussing a meeting calendar for next year.