

Aggie Improvement Team Comments

I am going to try and summarize at least in part what I heard. Now, you teachers and administrators are the professionals, and I am out of my depth here, so I may botch it a bit. Please correct me as needed.

These teams are focused, and their goals are determined, by an annual deep dive into our student data to determine where the needs are greatest. This results in targeted goals that are taken up by the teams of teachers district wide. You are the leaders, but every teacher is a member of one of the teams.

RIGOR TEAM

- The goal is to make all students proficient in the core subjects. Your team is doing that by training teachers in researched-based best practices for
 1. Measuring student progress—what you call formative and summative assessments,
 2. Developing in students the habits they need to succeed—Work Habits, and
 3. Assigning homework that raises students up one step at a time from where they are to where they are capable of being—what you call scaffolding.
- You also created a video guide for PowerSchool so parents can be fully engaged with you in their student’s educational journey.
- You have done work that has been published along with the work of a global leader in education.

LITERACY TEAM

Your goal is to take steps that specifically improve reading and writing skills including

1. Improving the tools teachers have available to assess where a student is and what specific individual help they need—what you call Multi-tiered Systems of Support or MTSS
2. Raising students’ understanding of a common set of academic terms and ideas needed for learning by embedding them with consistency throughout the K-12 curriculum.
3. Surrounding kids with energy and excitement about reading and making sure great books are within easy reach.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The goal was to coordinate learning targets across classrooms and grade levels K-12.

1. These targets will be in line with state standards – that excludes Critical Race Theory as a topic.
2. You gathered a multitude of resources to expose teachers to a wide variety of perspectives
3. Then taking the time to self-reflect and foster uncomfortable conversations amongst yourselves, you established a shared understanding of the range of perspectives.
4. This is all designed to foster the ability in students to recognize and analyze facts—not to guide their decisions, but to give them the tools to make up their own minds—what you call critical thinking skills.

RELEVANCE & RELATIONSHIPS

Finally, the Relevance & Relationships team wants to help students prepare for what comes after graduation, make learning fun throughout, and consider the mental health and social-emotional well-being of the students and staff alike.

While a little easier to summarize, the recognition that we must consider the whole teacher and student as part of our mission is an important one if the achievement of all students is what matters.

I appreciate the indulgence of everyone here as I was trying to put into my own words what was presented to us this evening. Folks, we may get caught up all manner of distractions and disagreements, but *this* information is what really matters. This is what will have the most lasting impact on our community, the nation, and, yes, the world. It is what sets Dansville apart from the surrounding schools and will fulfill our mission.

Thank you to the administrators, faculty, and staff assembled here and those that are already enjoying the respite you all have earned. You are part of something rare and special—effective implementation of research-based, best-teaching practice, borne of the love of your students and a radical commitment to collaboration and the education profession.

THANK YOU! Please enjoy the rest of the summer. We look forward to taking up The Cause again in mid-August.

Mike Kapp
Board President