

PbL Meeting

12-6-16

1. Review of the agenda
2. Draft goals

We reviewed the draft goals and adopted the goals as written after some discussion, including the following points:

Public

Do we need to say anything about the Program of Studies? It talks about the pathways to graduation. The Program of Studies will be important but the key for us is the School Profile. This will be done by the high school and presented to this group for feedback.

We clarified that inquires about PbL can follow regular chain - first to teacher about specific class or course and then to principal. If it is a bigger question, not specific to a teacher, send it to principal. If in doubt, call principal, who can always forward the question to a teacher if appropriate.

Further discussion centered around examples of PbL being discussed in classes regarding targets, in IEPs regarding levels of proficiency and information being shared in newsletters.

Increased sharing of information seen as key.

Practice

PD is ongoing at all levels.

Curriculum and Instruction leaders facilitating work on early release days.

Some discussion around reinforcing consistent language so when we talk about it everyone has the same definition

One example was around the word "quiz", which is sometimes used as summative while others only call it a formative.

Policy

There are policies that need to come back for revisions

High school already presented to the MPA on co-curricular eligibility involving Habits of Work (HOW). MPA has moved towards a content score based on the work from Great Schools. A case for our proposed policy which stresses Habits of Work (HOW) and present the evidence to get MPA to accept the policy.

The current system is cleaner for now and we will run with this policy until we get full implementation. Principal can review in light of PbL implementation.

Discussion centered on getting information out to students and parents so that expectations are clear.

Skillin is practicing using HOWs as certificates for monthly recognition. Hopefully we are building this so when students get to high school they really will understand the shift.

3. Updates from the field

We have looked at case studies from others in the field.

Elementary-

Becky Brown -we have tried to pick some things that show us changes from the field.

We have been trying to use Proficiency Based Instruction. (video)

Lue Bagley provided examples of the pyramids that her teachers are using

Middle Schools-

Becky Brown reviewed some MEA data in science for grade 8

It appears we are seeing some gains in MEA science with first class to have had PbL through MS in science with what has appeared to be our strongest implementation
There is an increase from “Meets to Exceeds” in the 2015-16 year. This is a significant jump over previous years

High School

There is a lot of work going on especially in grade 10. Beginning work on integrating 21st Century Skills.

Recently Southern Maine Partnership brought a group to visit the high school. It involved visit and a conversation. There were 28 principals and superintendents and 6 USM staff. They spent most of the time asking about our high school’s approach to rolling out proficiency. There are areas schools looking to come back to work with us. It was great to have a conversation with leaders from other districts.

On Dec. 9 Becky Brown and Ryan Caron presented in Rhode Island at the national Coalition for Essential Schools conference. Their session was well attended with considerable interest in our approach to implementation of PbL at the high school level.

Becky Brown noted that we are on target to meet the State target date for implementation. In 2020 every school needs to issue a diploma on the 4 core content areas and the 21st Century Skills. We are learning what we can from others and sharing our practice as well. In November several principals and teachers presented in a Curriculum Leadership conference in Freeport.

Teri Wark, SPHS Guidance Director has talked with some big schools (Colby, Harvard, Bates, etc). Based on her conversation we have learned some ideas for putting some things on the transcript so they see it right off. We will bring a draft of a School Profile to the next meeting for review and input.

5. Other

Additional communication going out?

Did HS students get the last blast about proficiency sent to all families? We should make sure we get info to the students.

Are there other opportunities for middle and high school teachers talk about proficiency?

6. Agenda items for next meeting

Draft school profile

Schools in action-instructional snapshots

Data (MEA)