

Strategic Planning Meeting

October 22, 2018 – 5 PM

Newport Area Career & Technical Center, Room 900

Superintendent Jermain introduced Hank Kniskern as facilitator of the session. The goal of this session is to review accomplishments under each of the seven strategies, as well as determine the next steps, future work to be done, and/or adjustment of strategies.

Technology in the Classroom

Accomplishments:

- During 2017-2018 750 Chromebooks and 150 teacher laptops were procured; 2018-2019 procured 1300 Chromebooks and 100 laptops as well as projection devices for each classroom in the district. PD was provided to teachers.
- 1:1 initiative “take-home computer pilot” program implemented for Grade 9 students.
- Purchasing equipment is an important step – there is a shift from textbooks to personalized learning platforms (Summit). Goal setting and tasks are identified. Highlander Institute provided a grant to develop teacher leaders for a blended learning approach. PD can now be provided from within the building. Capacity is built among all three schools.
- PTECH has substantially implemented technology in the classroom and integration with some curriculum areas.
- In two years, the district has “caught up” in the number of devices available, hired an IT Director, implemented tracking and control of software and established a Technology Advisory Group which meets monthly.
- As a result of independent learning, we hoped to see improvement in standardized test scores.
- Pell Tech fund is approximately \$90,000 short of the \$1M endowment goal. Funds can be used for equipment, training, or software at Pell School. Many community partners and civic organizations have been generous toward the goal.

To do:

- Tech Integration person is still needed. The position must remain in the strategy. A minimum of one position for the district is needed; one per building is preferred.
- Get student help desk running
- Additional certified support staffing for Technology department
- Determine how to budget for replacement of expired equipment
- How is the impact of technology measured? The group must determine measurement, i.e. test scores, attendance, usage of equipment by teachers, engagement of students, home usage by students. Data measuring progress and impact is important, but often hard to quantify.

High Quality Learning Opportunities and Pathways

Accomplishments:

- More students are engaged at TMS. After-school culinary experience at RHS has been hugely successful.
- Career and Tech Pathways have come a long way. More than half of the students at RHS are in a Career & Tech Pathway.
- 8th graders all visit NACTC to gauge interest in programs.
- ILPs are being rolled out.

- Interactive sessions were held with Highlander Institute to incorporate student goals. They met almost monthly with the Superintendent. Likes and dislikes were expressed and their voices were heard.
- RHS student presentations were made to faculty and then TMS students. TMS presentations were focused on “If I knew in 6th grade what I know now...” based on the RHS students’ experiences in Newport Project, AOIT, Internships, and job opportunities.
- A different schedule was created at TMS. Power Hour came out of it and students are able to explore different activities and interests.

To Do:

- Support and create better communication systems for TMS so parents know what is happening.
- Continue to reach out to community partners to bring in experiential learning opportunities and more arts
- Continue the student voice and Highlander/Fuse project with the RHS students sharing their experiences with TMS students
- Expand after-school clubs
- Faculty and tech integration is essential

ILP (Individual Learning Plan for students)

Accomplishments:

- ILPs are being piloted in grades 6, 8, 9, and 11 grade students. (Not all students – but a sample from each grade).
- Career Cruising was selected as the ILP platform. TMS and RHS websites now have the Career Cruising link. PD has begun for principals and advisory teachers, parents, and students. The tool is available to all students - not just those in the pilot program.
- Tool contains interests assessment, establishing goals, learning styles preferences, skills and ability profiles.
- Advisory teams are starting explorations and it is getting off the ground. Communication is needed.
- ILP/Advisory will be done as part of English Class for grade 11 as an integration pilot

To Do:

- Determine how this fits into the schedule at both TMS and RHS, i.e. Advisory, Power hour, Career Day, etc. How do we negotiate time to give to students and teachers?
- As the tool becomes more comfortable for students and common interests are found, ideas for new coursework are expected.
- Create a vision for pathway from TMS to RHS.
- Expose students to colleges and meet with college students to show possibilities
- The logistics of Mentoring or having mentors discuss career areas are difficult
- The transition from ILP pilots to full integration will be a time challenge

Early Childhood Education

Accomplishments:

- Summer learning academy was held to prevent student regression.

- Community partnerships continue with Salve Regina University. Coordination with MLK, BGC Club and after school programs are all aligned.
- Building relationships with PRE-K programs. A grant was received for PK summit and the initiative is to work on consistent a communication tool and increase awareness around PK programs through community events.
- Stand-alone PK fair will not be held and replaced by HEZ baby shower, K registration, welcome evening. Registration will be “on the road” and available at Head Start International Night.
- K Boston Curriculum (deliberate play-based center integrating ELA and phonics with Science and Social Studies) is being implemented by 2 K teachers this year.
- K and 1 teachers, as well as reading and an ELL teacher were trained together in *Foundations* – implemented a systematic approach to phonics.

To Do:

- Keep looking at data and determine ways to build capacity around teacher to support ELL students. ELL population has increased (30% of Pell). RWU has offered an ELL endorsement to Providence and Pawtucket. Newport is trying to become part of the collaborative which will start in June for our teachers. Intern time can be used right in the classroom.
- Determine a way to “study our students” that have been with us from K-12 to determine how are we doing.
- Explore technology in the classroom tools helpful for ESL students.
- Bi-lingual classrooms.

Professional Development

Accomplishments:

- Three PD themes were offered: Social Emotional, Tech Integration and Differentiation.
- Curriculum and units of study are being reviewed for rigor and relevance as well as College and Career Proficiency standards.
- Ten different technology PD choices were offered to begin the year. All PD presentations are on the website and monthly PD sessions continue.
- Equity Conversations, Kingian Non- Violence work continues.
- Schedule has been changed to allow early release days for Professional Development.
- Teacher feedback on PD effectiveness has been implemented: smaller sessions, highly practical, quality instructors, better planning and content

To Do:

- Stay aware of how RIC is training teachers – they are looking at new ways to train teachers and we may be able to learn from them.
- RWU and Salve models are followed here and starting with sophomore college students. That is a good time for student teachers to determine if teaching is a good fit.

Climate and Culture: hold for next meeting

One Newport: hold for next meeting

Summary:

- Further discussion is needed on reading interventions at Pell.
- Opportunities/pathways keep students in the district.
- Questions need to be addressed at the next session. Growing pains come with implementation. Suggestion was made to have smaller groups for the next discussion.
- The group needs to identify high level priorities and bring to school committee. Community engagement is important and priorities need to be clear.
- Might be advantageous to schedule a “one-strategic-goal” review in a school committee meeting to get a concentrated view and deeper discussion and then do another single-topic in another session.
- Email ideas should be submitted to the Superintendent. The next meeting will be held **November 19, 2018 at 5 PM** to finish discussion and identify the capacity and priority issues.
- Suggestions for process:
 - Action Items with accomplishments and obstacles listed will be sent to all prior to the next meeting;
 - Small groups will review the progress and look at new or revised action steps that reflect the work we are doing;
 - Group leaders will provide summary of progress/roadblocks for their strategy;
 - Think about practical measures for priority initiatives
 - Quarterly status update provided to the community – what is taking place and how are we doing?