



21st CENTURY SCHOOLS Instruction Team

Wednesday, September 23, 2009 - 6:00 p.m.
Administration Building – Omega Room

Chairperson: Char Sherman

Present: Steve Becher, Jim Best, Cassandra Bishop, Greg Cooper, Kaleigh Crummey, Jennifer Curry, Matt Diroff, Dawn Hallman, April Henley, Dave Ingham, Amy McCusker, Gerri Middaugh, Stephanie Miller, Kimberly Murphy, Val Orr, Sally Perkins, Bridget Regan, Paul Salah, Kelly Salter, Cindy Schofield, Joan Sedik, Nancy Strachan, Amy Thorner, Susan Webb, Ali Zarate.

Minutes

The majority of the members present (nineteen individuals) made visits during the past week to buildings with 5 – 6 grade configurations. Members shared their observations regarding the programs at Dexter Creekside School, Livonia Cooper School, Saline Heritage School and Novi Meadows School.

Number of Students	The 5 – 6 schools ranged from 600-1,000 students per building.
Type of Facility	Some districts used buildings that originally served as junior high schools or middle schools. Others built 5 – 6 buildings.
School Culture	All schools had an elementary atmosphere. There were no bells. Students were not in the hall at the same time. Classes were often walked to their specials. Students went to recess.
Grade Configuration	In all of the districts the students in the 5 – 6 building remained with their peers as they transition to a 7 – 8 building, then a 9 – 12 high school.

Specials	Specials included physical education, art, instrumental music, vocal music, technology, and foreign language. There was discussion on the length of time given to instrumental music students to explore various instruments.
Teacher Teams	Some schools assigned two person teams, with an occasional three person team. Other schools left the option to team up to each teacher.
Administrator, Counselors, Social Workers	Some buildings had one principal; others had co-principals. Some buildings had one counselor; others had one counselor or a support person for each grade. All buildings had other types of ancillary staff.
Scheduling	All buildings hand scheduled students into classrooms as we currently do in our elementary schools.
Sports	None of the schools participated in organized sports, but all of the schools had clubs and some intramural type activities.

The entire committee agreed to recommend the 5 – 6 grade configuration to the Facilities, Enrollment, and Finance/Human Relations Teams for further exploration and consideration.

No date was set for our next meeting.