



21st CENTURY SCHOOLS Instruction Team

Wednesday, September 9, 2009 - 6:00 p.m.
Administration Building – Omega Room

Chairperson: Char Sherman

Present: Greg Baracy, Steve Becher, Jim Best, Greg Cooper, Kayleigh Crummey, Matt Diroff, Dawn Hallman, Dave Ingham, Amy McCusker, Gerri Middaugh, Stephanie Miller, Val Orr, Sally Perkins, Bridget Regan, Paul Salah, Kelly Salter, Cindy Schofield, Joan Sedik, Nancy Strachan, Amy Thorner, Sue Webb, Alejandra Zarate.

Minutes

The Instruction Team reviewed the Minutes of August 26, 2009. A list of district Strengths and Areas in Need of Improvement, which was generated at the last meeting, was passed out. The committee also reviewed the Grade Configuration Chart that was discussed at the last meeting.

Four visitors from Livonia Public Schools discussed the 5-6 grade configuration in Livonia and answered questions from the committee. Livonia Superintendent Randy Liepa talked about Livonia's ability to bring instrumental music, foreign language, an enhanced vocal music program, and technology classes to upper elementary students by changing to a 5-6 configuration. He noted that the 5-6 experience actually made the middle school transition easier. The 5-6 schools don't have bells, do have recess, and keep an elementary atmosphere. Cooper School Principal Heidi Frazer-Cherry felt that the 5-6 schools provided the right place for this age group and met their need to belong. She answered questions about lunch, recess, teacher assignments, student assistance, and after school programs. Cooper Elementary teacher Theresa O'Brien shared her passion for preserving the elementary atmosphere and strong teacher student relationships in the 5-6 schools. Cooper Parent Shelly Robinet compared her child's experience in a 5-6 school to her older children's experiences. She felt the 5-6 school gave her child the "opportunity to fly" and raved about the advantages she saw.

After further questions and answers, the Instruction Team decided to visit several schools with 5-6 configurations. Char Sherman will coordinate visits to Dexter, Novi, Livonia, and Saline.

The next meeting date was set for Wednesday, September 23, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the same location. Committee members will share the information gathered on their site visitations.