

## Agenda Items

### 1. What are your thoughts on the draft of the building goal?

#### Draft Goal:

**To achieve 95% or higher graduation rate beginning with the class of 2019 with a specific emphasis during the year around 9<sup>th</sup> grade and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students being on track to graduate with interventions focused on reducing failure rates.**

- Focus should be on learning rather than credit acquisition
- Credit is a measure of learning on our salary scale-- why not for students?
- May be danger of teachers just passing everyone for credit rather than focusing on learning
- Credit is a concrete number and therefore easy to measure; learning is fuzzier
- Focusing on grad rates does not equate with focusing on learning and meeting expectations
- If I'm teaching for learning, intervention is not my responsibility. Putting interventions in place allows me to keep teaching.
- Are we being evaluated on whether kids fail our classes?
- Trust teachers that they are doing as many interventions as necessary, then have extra interventions in place.
- What are the standards for a passing grade? Is it points or meeting a learning standard?
- Is intervention based around completing paperwork or meeting a standard?
- We should choose a simple, building-wide focus (e.g. summary, capitalization, calculate grades to reinforce simple math skills)
- We keep looking for a magic bullet, and it changes every year. Pick something that works and stick with it. Sustain good practices.
- Teach kids to think, not just immediately ask for help.
- The point of education is to develop citizens.

**2. What feedback can you share about your experience with Fall conferences in 2017? What input would you like to share with LIT for their conversation on Fall conferences for 2017.**

- Maybe we can talk about having them on a Thursday/Friday? Is it possible the middle of the week is a barrier to some families?
- Conference schedule worked well. I'm glad I'm in the hall and not in the commons due to the noise!
- I thought conferences went well in the Fall except for the exchange of time resulting in a super long Spring conference day. The actual running of conferences was fine.

The dinner breaks (when we have them) are somewhat awkward though, especially when people are waiting in line. Maybe we can think about doing a BBQ or something that includes the parents and kids? I have no idea about logistics or cost, but it would lessen the awkwardness.

Side note: Open House has become a wasted chunk of time. The parents learn nothing about our classes, the students' learning environment, or what a student schedule is like for their kids. The meet and greet feels forced and awfully repetitive. That night makes me feel like a politician glad-handing all night. I get a line of parents who want to talk about their kids (like a mini-introductory conference) instead of an explanation of what the students will actually do, how I run a class, etc. What is now the purpose of Open House?

- It was fine. Much better than having small, short days. Please keep it the same.
- I don't have a classroom but was able to translate for a couple of the parents on my caseload. The conferences were quick and to the point and seemed to answer parents' questions. It would be nice if a form was created so parents can write notes for each class. That way that can go home and discuss what they learned. I really liked that some of the clubs were available for parents and students to learn more - more of a Open House event!

**3. What feedback can you share about your experience with the 1<sup>st</sup> semester finals schedule in 2017? What input would you like to share with LIT for their conversation on the 1<sup>st</sup> semester finals schedule for 2018.**

- Having almost all semester classes, the semester finals schedule worked over very well.

- I wish we would decide on a schedule and stick with it. We revisit this every year and make minor tweaks, but no substantive or meaningful changes. If we could just keep the schedule during finals week as regular days and if we could just give the finals when appropriate for our classes, that would be great.

I do not like having classes after the final has been given. This is a waste of time and feels like babysitting at times with the younger students. I'd rather teach the kids until the final on the last day instead of wasting our precious class time.

- It worked. Please keep it the same.
- Seems like the 1st semester final schedule worked out good last year for students. Having the schedule in advance does help with planning!