

November 19 - Michelle's LIT Group Meeting

Present: Todd Busse, Robin Kansky, James Elwyn, Mary Symonds, Jeff Leavitt, Tricia Devereaux, Chris Ferrians, Carrie Christensen, Steve Priest, Karlynn Funk, Hollie McPhetridge, Spencer Nee, and Rachel Endelman

Topic 1 - Conferences this year and how they went

Chris F. reported that he has no A/B groups and very small classes, so he only saw 15 people this year. For someone in his situation, the full days didn't work well. Really wants to know what the schedule for the trade day in spring looks like. The long double shift, seems to violate the spirit if not the letter of the law.

Mary S. saw 24 parents in one day. Really liked having Friday off.

Carrie - Saw about 40% of her students' parents and had some needed down time, so that was okay. Wishes we had started earlier.

James - Doesn't like missing the three consecutive days with students. Would prefer having half days with students for continuity.

Carrie concurred, especially since there are so many missing days in November.

Todd - Half days would be good. We were told the problem with the long day in Spring would be fixed, but it seems like nothing has been changed.

Carrie - LIT is aware that no one wants this long day. Options were discussed but tabled until the next meeting (today). Solution might include some flex time for teachers.

Karlynn - Had many parents this year, perhaps because she was new to this position.

Tricia - Why Halloween? Seemed inconvenient for teacher parents. Rethink this for future.

Steve - Strangely, he had a ton of parents on Halloween.

Topic 2 - Schedule Draft

Note: Dates on the draft schedule are incorrect. Monday is the 21st.

Karlynn - Need to make sure that the printed schedule for students reflects the flexible nature of the A/B exams.

Carrie - Bigger dilemma is that the 1st day of second semester is a B day. Could this be a skinny day to alleviate the problem?

Hollie - Likes the idea of a skinny on Tuesday, Jan. 29.

Mary - Does not want to see 3 & 4 after they have taken their test. Skinny block seems like a good solution. Most seem to concur.

Topic 3 - Equity Book Study

There may be interest, but they want to know the book title and details first. Can Molly send this out for them to decide?

Other Business

Mary - Hoodies over baseball caps in hallway okay?

Also, what is the timeline for discussing the block schedule. What data do we currently have? Would like to see an outline

James - School Board Report (Eric's Summary) seems inconclusive.

Todd - Is the School Board going to do anything more?

Tricia - Budgeting is an issue. The cost of running the A/B is greater, and with the District talking about being short of funds, this should be a consideration.

Mary - Sub situation is also a concern.

Holly - Subs are stressed moving around from class to class and have little time to read plans and organize.

Steve - Subs are losing jobs so they're going to other districts.

Karlynn - Subs are being assigned to disciplines they are not comfortable teaching.

Mary - Writes plans for the sub and feels that she is paying with her sick leave for others' subs. Seems not quite right.

Subs have reported that they are only taking middle school jobs now to avoid this.

District PR

Holly - With the School Board's negative view of the district as evidenced by the schedule report, parents have been asking her if we are a failing school. The negative view of some seems to be affecting how people see us, even though it's not an accurate picture. She is considering attending a Board Meeting to discuss.