

“Galaxy” as a Network of Innovators

Summary + Reflection + Recommendations

2021-2022

History:

[Summary and Reflection 2020-2021](#)

2020-2021 Suggested Next Steps:

1. Plan to launch 2 idea campaigns next year (1 per semester)
 - a. The “success” of the first 2 connected with the necessary consistency to get submissions suggests attempting to plan and launch 2 campaigns with more space in between during the next year would be a good step
 - b. Possible collaboration with other departments
 2. Plan to launch an RnI newsletter
 - a. In an attempt to find a consistent way to engage with the network in a non-transactional fashion, a newsletter seems to be a great proposal and brought up by 4/5 people during reflections
 - b. The newsletter could support follow-up and follow-through, be another platform for sharing ideas, share about upcoming opportunities and events, provide access to resources and professional learning, help remind the network about the community
 3. Collaborate with 2 departments (Equity/C&I/Teaching and Learning,?) on a spring showcase
 - a. The interest, feedback and success of the Race and Equity showcase along with the other showcases that happened throughout this past year suggests intentional planning to develop this across multiple departments to leverage ideas would be a good step
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What we did:

Taking into consideration the realities within MMSD schools, capacity of the R&I team alongside of other projects, and shifting priorities, ROCKiT participated in Galaxy related movement in the following ways:

1. Prototyped/Tested the R&I Update (non-newsletter): A passive attempt to share with our network of innovators
 - a. Discussed as a ROCKiT team and launched an MVP with a small number of MMSD staff members in order to get feedback
 - b. Made adjustments based on feedback and research from looking at other “newsletters” and speaking with various members of other organizations
 - c. Launched a newsletter with the intent to send them every month, but shifted to every other month
 - d. Successfully sent 4 newsletters
 - e. Implemented a section in collaboration with IRE to provide a research share
 - f. Completed 5 BML cycles including the MVP test in October after an internal test
2. Attempted to collect data around ideas/resources/opportunities shared, and didn’t successfully keep track of this. However, in reflection we shared over 20 resources and opportunities.
3. Started an opportunity we thought was connected to the Galaxy as a showcase, but the Imagine If... opportunity shifted into a PD so will not be talked about here.

Feedback from engagers with the Update:

Received minimal feedback from engagers with the update, but some good thoughts:

1. It shows you opened some of our R&I updates this year. How did you engage with the update once it was opened?
 - a. I am most interested in the opportunities to submit my ideas for grants for programs for students. I always apply for the grants but my ideas never get chosen. I am not sure if they are just not cool enough, or what the criteria is for writing a successful request for a project, I wish it were more specifically communicated up front.
 - b. I browse the information and see what pertains to me
 - c. I would usually open the update and read/scroll through to learn what the R&I team has been up to.
2. Each update was broken down into a few common sections (Interactive Poll, Team Happenings, Research Share, Cool Tool, Opportunities for Educators). Is there a specific section that you found more useful? Why or why not?
 - a. The Opportunities for educators are my favourite parts.
 - b. I like the Cool Tools and the Research Share
 - c. I typically find each of the sections interesting, perhaps given my previous connections with the team's work. Not sure that's true for others....suggestions below.
3. If you were to adjust any section, what would you adjust? Why and how?
 - a. Communicate what a successful request looks like (#1 response)
 - b. No I think it works good
 - c. I think you currently have multiple purposes for the update...transparency, sharing progress on previous work, sharing opportunities... I think it would be helpful for you to think about the update through the lens of a burned out, tired and overwhelmed teacher. I think starting with on-ramps of immediate ways they can leverage support from R&I would be most helpful. Maybe move Opportunities to the top, and always offer something like "Is your teacher team looking for new ideas, or would you like help thinking through a new outside the box project? Invite us to one of your meetings!". Cool tools could be moved up too. I just think it's increasingly unlikely that people would go out of their way to attend an info session, etc.. and also think most are short on time to just learn about stuff they aren't or can't be involved in. The other option would be to use two updates...one for BOE, central office and other stakeholders, and another for school-based staff.
4. What can you tell us about the format of the update?
 - a. It is a good format
 - b. I think the format is great. Email works better than most other ways of communicating and gets it directly into teacher mailboxes.
5. If we were to take anything out of the update, what would you suggest?
 - a. I like your sections and wouldn't take anything out
 - b. Not sure I'd take anything out. Just put the less current teacher-centered stuff further down.
6. If we were to add anything to the update, what would you suggest?
 - a. More info for 4K :)
7. Is every other month an okay cadence for the update? Would you want more or less?
 - a. Every other month is great- less is more
 - b. Yep, I think every other month is great.
 - c. I think that is plenty, I think every 3rd month would be fine too..

Other:

- I love Rock it, I did one of your workshops, it was great.
- A huge part of why i pay attention to what your department is doing is because I trust you, I see vision in your department, and I am hoping to find nuggets of information that might tell me the direction our leadership is going or values or something!
- Don't have capacity to review this, but appreciate the ask to do so!

Suggested Next Steps:

1. Continue the R&I non-newsletter update:
 - a. There was enough positive feedback to continue this work every other month into next year
 - b. The lift is small (3 hours max putting it together)
 - c. Perhaps take out the poll at the top (not many fill it out if any/it is not why people open the update)
 - d. Continue including more updates to opportunities, resources and ideas people can use in the work they do (people like the tangible and usable pieces)
2. Launch 1 idea campaign next year (Good during Q3):

- a. Get some momentum going into winter break and bring back an ideas campaign with a twist
 - b. Collaborate with other departments to uplift things they are hearing and seeing
 - c. Gain enough information + pictures to be able to put together a Ideas Share visual to share with the district
 - d. Could we connect the ideas campaign with something we are working on within IRE?
3. Complete 1 showcase next year (Probably End of the Year/Second Semester):
- a. Could this be around BIG ideas at the end of the year instead of a final council?
 - b. Could this be around other projects we engage in throughout the year?
 - c. Could this be in partnership with C&I/Equity/Teaching and Learning to actually compile a showcase of cool things tried throughout the year?
 - d. Could this be at one school we partner and connect with the celebrate ideas and what they are doing in classrooms (as heard through interviews and the need for celebration)?
 - e. Could this be for a NIC we try to run throughout the year?