

RMS (Reimagining Middle Schools) Committee

Steering Meeting Summary

October 3rd

- **Purpose** - Agenda overview, RMS "Roadmap" (including our past "stops"), Today's Objectives was reviewed.
- **Norms** – Community Agreements, Roles, and Parking Lot were reviewed (reviewed is in here twice).
- **Book Study** – Chapter 3 (pp. 45 -) Leadership and Organization 6 sections was covered during the meeting. We used "Smart Brevity" as an example. The assigned task was to create mail subject line – hook, entice people to open the email. No more than 6 words, the less words the better, the less syllables the better, select a person from your group that will read your subject line. Tables shared:
 - Vision: *"A just education for ALL"*
 - Policies & Practices *"Policies and practices benefit all students"*
 - Leaders are Committed *"School Leader Superpower = Student Well-being"*
 - Courage and Collaboration *"10 commandments for Effective School Leadership"*
 - Professional Learning *"Professional Learning All Staff Relevant Long-Term Job Embedded"*
 - Organizational Structures *"Fostering Purposeful Learning and Meaningful Relationships"*
- **Define the Problem** - We explained how to explicitly identify the problems based on the data collected. Members needed to state what is wrong or needs to be addressed, not WHY it's a problem, nor how you plan to address it. Examples were provided. Members were working with a partner. 5 Index cards were provided. Tables needed to share 1 problem. We created a list of problems. We used the information collected by committee members (meeting #2), student panel (meeting #3), Level 2 members (meeting #3) and shadow a student (meeting #4).
- **Fishbowl Activity** - Interior fishbowl – who shadowed. Outside circle were observers (the process). We did not give specific student names or schools. Observers: listen without judging.
- **Coming to Consensus** - Added to our problems that we heard from the fishbowl. We consolidated to three common problems we have. We reviewed what the meaning of consensus is. Consensus is NOT voting, making agreements we can stand by, I can defend it publicly. Start with the problems and narrow it to three through dialog. Then we shared ONE. We created a list of problems.

- Not enough meaningful connection to/with peers and adults
 - Irrelevant instruction and use of time
 - The school day and classes are not typically structured in a way that empowers students and promotes their ownership of learning
 - There is no bridge to 5th grade students transitioning to middle school.
 - There is a disconnect between the skills being taught and the skills needed to succeed in the future.
 - Every action, there is a reaction. Every decision may affect many people, causing unintended consequences of decisions.
 - Sense of meaningful engagement and student voice.
 - Students need more break time! (Only lunch)
 - Students lack interactive learning environments
 - Sense of belonging
- **Nuts and Bolts** - We reviewed next steps which included:
 - Next Meeting- 10/20 Tyee
 - November 17- 8:00-4:00 PM
 - Chapter #4 (pages 45-67 on "Young Adolescent Development & Implications for Educators"
 - What is coming up: WE DEFINE
 - **Optimistic Closing** - Suit yourself activity!