

RMS (Reimagining Middle Schools) Committee

Steering Meeting Summary

November 17

Inclusive Welcome

- Members used the shark tank game to start their thinking and collaboration. They debriefed the game experience and why we did it (team bonding, joyful play and teamwork).
- Community agreements were reviewed and today's objectives. The road maps were explained.
- Members of the committee were encouraged to use the parking lot placed on each table.
- A video from a student in High School was introduced. The student interviewed other HS students about their experiences at middle school.

Content

- The meaning of ideation was reviewed. The RMS vision was read aloud.
- Ideation: brainstorm ideas, bring them all together as a team, share with the whole group.
- We reviewed the "How Might We?" questions that were created at the last meeting and the question with the most stars were read aloud.

Learning Walks

- a. Classroom visits at Big Picture. Each member of the group had a specific attribute with which to "look" through when observing the classroom setting & learning.
 - i. Equitable: everyone had a choice; they were all working
 - ii. Engaging: culture of joy in the classroom. Foundation of the engagement. Lots of social engagement required by the task. Even if the task didn't require it, there was a sense of joy. The plan was engaging for the students, they had ownership because of choice.
 - iii. Empowering: building on equitable and engaging – talked a lot about student choice and how they viewed their room or group. The teacher's talk time was little, but it may be because of the length of the classes and how it's structured (we missed the talk time due to block schedule.)
 - iv. Challenging: lots of stations (group or individual/pairs) to solve a problem. A way of socializing with others at the same time. The choice of the assignment was different than a typical MS - they created a video game which looked more challenging.

- v. Responsiveness: How things are framed in the classroom – there was a lot of technology use or autonomy regarding personal technology (cell phones/devices) used for listening to music. Cross subject collaboration may be present (guess, based on project observed).

Empathize: Panel

- The committee interviewed a parent, teacher, and administrators from International & Big Picture.
- Notes of the empathy panel can be found in [this link](#).

Making Sense of Data

- Members visited different stations for Staff & Student outreach, Student panorama data, Staff & Student listening sessions and the family Alchemer survey. They shared the findings with their table group.
- Committee members use the following guiding questions as they were exploring data:
 - What did we learn from the Listening Campaign data?
 - How does what we learned connect to our RMS vision?
 - How might we incorporate what we learned into our ideations?
 - Stakeholder feedback is important to understand deeply and collectively. It can help guide our work to REIMAGINE middle school—along with research, including real-life examples from other places, and RMS Steering Committee members' beliefs, expertise, and leadership. October 2022 = First (not last) round of RMS stakeholder feedback

Ideation Sprint #1

- Committee members watched a video seeing how experts brainstorm. IDEO, a leading design innovation company, is well known for their brainstorming methods. In this video, members of the IDEO demonstrate a typical brainstorm meeting. Norms for brainstorming ideas were reviewed.

Best Innovated Middle Schools

- Members of the committee reviewed the list of innovative schools. As a team they decided how to review the list. They needed to dive in! At the end, they shared new ideas.

Ideations Sprint #2

- Members used sticky notes to brainstorm ideas in groups. They needed to add new ideas from the innovative middle schools.

- Members needed to use the ideas generated in the ideation sprint #1, group the ideas to find common solutions, choose a number of votes (around 2–3 should do), vote using stickers with our RMS vision in mind and rank to select ideas.
- Members were narrowing ideas based on our RMS vision: We will redesign the middle school experience to offer a **developmentally responsive, student-centered** education.

Student Voice

Monica Davies, our AVID Curriculum Developer, shared the reimagining middle school design challenge completed in AVID classrooms. She shared the themes identified by Tye and Odle AVID students.

Bring it all together!

- Members were asked to present to each other. Some ideas to include in their presentation included:
 - Elements or Categories
 - Final Ideas (solutions)
 - The “Why”
 - How is this design solving the problems/opportunities?
 - How is this design meeting students’ needs?
 - Essential attributes (AMLE)
- Examples were provided. The members of the team were asked to be presented in different ways (examples: A Day-in-a-life, list, diagram, schedule, video or choice)
- Members presented their ideas. Those ideas were collected in [this link](#).

Optimistic Closing

Members took a moment to reflect and share:

- What is driving or powering you through this work?
- What is something that you have seen keeping you/us balanced, upright, or of course?
- What are some exciting ways we are looking at bending or breaking?