

# **MIDDLE SCHOOL TRANSITION TEAM**

**January 16, 2007**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Tally Swanson, Paul Reed, Jennifer Jacobson, Diane Metcalf, Tami Schmitt, Michelle Devlin, Brenda Manson, John Wagner, Jeff Lunt, Chuck Lisk, Bryan O'Donnell, Penny Fiscalini, Butch Webb, Lisa Cornelson, Shirlene Fitzwater, Jeri Goebel, Donette Hope, Campbell Kirkman, Amity Butler, Mimi Tideman, Linda Williams, Michelle Reid

## **Welcome/Check In**

Team members checked in and reacquainted themselves with one another.

## **Review of Minutes**

The team reviewed and discussed the minutes from the last meeting. Norms were deemed as being maintained.

## **Review of Evaluation from Previous Meeting**

The MSTT reviewed the evaluation results from the previous meeting. The team is committed to reviewing and working within the norms established. High performing teams review not only the content of the work they do, but also the way in which they do their work.

## **Review of the Communication Expectations:**

Review and reminder that communication is critical in this transition work. Staff, parent and student communications continue to be a priority in this process. The communication must be transparent and honest. Michelle will work with district staff to craft succinct messages for both the website and press releases.

Communication plans on behalf of the parent and student team members were reviewed in generalities. Discussion ensued with regard to communicating often and concisely, particularly the rationale for the Facilities Efficiency Task Force recommendations. There is a concern that the community and even some staff do not fully realize what is going on. Communication plans and strategies continue to move forward with intentional focus. Having a succinct message is viewed as critical. Working effectively with the press was discussed as a priority.

## **Hot Topic(s). (discussion and response plan)**

The MSTT reviewed the assigned article from the New York Times, *10 is the New 15 as Kids Grow Up Faster*, regarding the ways in which young adolescents are different today than perhaps they were even ten years ago. Our world has changed significantly in the last number of years. Young adolescents need assistance as they cope with the ever higher expectations for their success in this climate.

The MSTT reviewed the Board Report #4. There was general consensus on the findings and resultant report.

### **Work/study teams meet**

The MSTT work plan was discussed. It is clear that we as a team are more thoughtful than any one of us are as individuals. The work plan was put in front of the MSTT for review and approval. While there are varying degrees of importance to a fairly wide variety of topics, we will get through them in a thoughtful manner. The LID information was very helpful in informing the work plan. This information was integrated into the work plan by Michelle and the middle school administrative leadership. Responses will be crafted to each concern raised and run by the entire MSTT body. It is viewed as important to maintain high levels of candid and transparent communication.

### **Review *This We Believe* text**

The text, *Managing Transitions*, will continue to guide our work. We will also be referring to the text, *This We Believe*, a position paper outlining successful middle school research and strategies. The latter text is published by the National Middle School Association. We did review both page 7 from this paper and page(s) 43 and beyond at the LID activity. The board of directors is also in receipt of this text and has reviewed the information we have shared.

### **Review of Reading Text to be Assigned**

The position paper from the National Middle School Association was handed out to all members. It is expected that this text will continue to guide our work.

The New York Times article *10 Is the New 15 as Kids Grow Up Faster* was assigned.

### **Thanks and Gratitude**

Thanks and gratitude for the continued generous contribution of time was again acknowledged.

### **Evaluation**

MSTT members completed the meeting evaluations that assessed our commitment to keeping the norms while we deliberate.

### **NEXT MEETINGS**

NOPSC: January 30

NOPSC: February 13 and 27