

Teacher Quality Committee Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2012
8:00-11:00

TQC Mission: The Teacher Quality Committee (TQC) will ensure equal access to long-range quality professional development for all teachers through the allocation of Teacher Quality Professional Development funds. The TQC will collectively and consistently utilize the Iowa Professional Development Model as its guide to monitor and strengthen professional development.

The Teacher Quality Committee met on February 20, 2012, from 8:00-11:00 in room 105 of the Education Service Center in Sioux City. The following committee members were present: Donna Walsh, Kris Flewelling, Linda McEntaffer, Sandi Cannon, Chris Poeckes, Ron Colling, Charlie Hoberg, John Beeck, Rich McGrath, Deb Padomek, Mary Jo Salem, and Janet Rohmiller. Joe Malsam and Jim Vanderloo were not present.

Minutes from Last Meeting

The minutes from the December 9th meeting were reviewed and approved.

Agenda for Today's Meeting

The committee reviewed and approved the agenda for today's meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

TQ Budget & Resource Allocation for 2011-2012

The committee reviewed the preliminary TQ PD attendance data and compared this data to last year's data. Overall data across the two years show similar participation patterns. The most notable difference was identified in the attendance for the full-day TQ PD day. Secondary participation dropped this year as compared to last from 71% at high school and 53% at middle school in 2010-2011 to 58% overall for MS/HS in 2011-2012, while elementary attendance increased from 53% last year to 64% this year. Secondary PD was department-based and elementary was building-based in the AM and department-based in the PM with a focus on math. The committee questioned if participation might increase if some or all of this day's PD was building-based, rather than department-based at the secondary level. The committee recommended that the PD agenda for this full-day session be distributed to staff at least two weeks prior to the PD session. The committee also requested additional analysis of attendance over time and that a breakdown by building be provided next year.

Based on a calculation of the participation rate during the first 12 hours of TQ PD and the average per diem rate, an unspent balance/carryover of \$50,000 was projected at the end of this fiscal year. Following discussion of this projected carryover, the committee agreed to add one additional hour of TQ PD time. This additional hour will be dedicated to IPDP time for all staff and will occur on February 27 for all elementary, EMS, and EHS staff and will occur on March 19 for NMS, NHS, WMS, and WHS staff. Janet will communicate this to all staff via email.

Iowa Core Update & Budget Request

ICC work is continuing within the project areas that have been previously approved. This work is occurring at both the elementary and secondary levels in the core curriculum areas.

PD Survey

The committee reviewed last year's survey questions and recommended that the survey remain the same for this year. This will allow for comparison of data across three years. The survey will occur during the week of April 16. District-wide survey results will be examined by the Teacher Quality Committee at the April 27 meeting; individual building results will be shared with and examined by building leadership teams.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

What are you hearing?

John Beeck shared results of the "teacher exchange" between Riverside Elementary and West Middle teachers—an activity aimed at supporting the successful transition between elementary and middle school, which was discussed at the last TQ meeting. The reports from teachers were very positive, and they believe this was time well spent. The next step they would like to implement is having two fifth grade students shadow middle school students for a day and then return to their peers and present about their experience. Committee members suggested that this kind of professional development might be something they would support in the future, and committee members wondered if this same concept might be beneficial between middle school and high school teachers.

Mary Jo shared that principals have been completing walk-throughs as small groups. Their goal is to become more consistent in completing classroom walk-throughs and observations. Mary Jo also noted that principals are seeing many good things when they visit classrooms.

Committee members also noted that they are seeing positive changes in the collaborative conversations in professional development.

The high schools are in their first year of implementing laptops for all 10th-12th grade students. Committee members reported that teachers are increasing their use of the technology and that they believe about 80% of students are using the technology for their benefit. They also noted that test-taking (common assessments) on these has been quite challenging this year, but technology staff members have been helpful working on these issues. It was suggested that there may be a need for technology ethics training for students. It was also noted that there is a need for more training for teachers on technology usage and PD that is interactive and provides time for practicing what was learned.

NEXT MEETING

Date: Friday, April 27, 2012

Time: 8:00-11:00 a.m.

Location: ESC room 105

Agenda Items:

- TQ PD data
- PD survey results
- Budget allocations for next year

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet Rohmiller