

Monthly Parent Communications Meeting Notes

November 1, 2012

1. Continuous Improvement

Dr. Susan Jones, Continuous Improvement Management Representative, and Courtney Chapman, Continuous Improvement Coordinator, gave an overview of the ISO/Continuous Improvement Program. In previous years the focus had been on process management and document control, but now we are looking at ways we can get better. CMCSS is one of ten school districts in the country that are ISO certified. Continuous Improvement allows CMCSS to be a good steward by being efficient about things as well as people. Provides cost savings and cost avoidance. They shared the sources that provide input for improvement and the procedure used to determine how that input will be handled. This year the district is using Improvement Teams to study selected issues for ways to improve. Parent representatives were shown on the CMCSS website where questions and comments can be submitted.

2. State Report Card

Dr. Worthington presented data and information from the State Report Card. He reminded parents that TCAP will count 15% of students' grades for second half of year for grades 3-8. Dr. Worthington explained "achievement" vs. "value added" scores. He described the changes that have taken place in the state over the past three years including new curriculum and more rigorous tests and re-norming. He also explained that the low scores for middle school science locally matched what is happening across the state. There is an issue with 7th grade science scores being low statewide. This usually indicates that the curriculum and assessment are not aligned. Dr. Worthington discussed the just-in-time trainings that are being used to assist high school teachers to prepare for end-of-course assessments. Dr. Worthington commented that for the graduating class of 2013 and thereafter there are more stringent graduation requirements.

3. Race to the Top Grant

Dr. Worthington told the group about a \$40 million grant that CMCSS has applied for. He described the New Tech High School academy ideas and the plan to have one-to-one computers for 6-12 grade students. The grant would provide a greater opportunity for personalization of a student's education. The grant will be awarded in January with implementation in August 2013. A question was asked about New Tech and parents were told they could go to the New Tech High School website to learn more.

4. Concerns and Questions

- A question was asked about what can be done for parents to better understand bullying and how to deal with it. A comment was made about the "Rachel's Challenge" program and how only a few parents had participated in the program when it was made available. Dr. Jones and Dr. Worthington described the training that the district uses – the Olweus program. A new law went into effect this year that will require the district

policy to be revised. There are parental components that must be part of the new policy so that is being worked on. A concern is that there are different definitions of “bullying” being used by various government agencies.

- Parents discussed how they are trying to communicate with the other parents in their school. Some are using Facebook page and some have set up g-mail accounts. Representatives need to work with their Principal on this.
- Question of the Month
Time did not allow discussion of the November question. Representatives should send their input on the November question of the month to teresa.rawls@cmcss.net.
The question is:
Are the mission, vision, and beliefs guiding the teaching and learning in the schools? If not, what are your concerns? (another way to say it- Is the teaching and learning meeting the needs of all students?)
- At the next meeting we will discuss the communications routes between parent group and stakeholders.