

**Superintendent Advisory Board Goal 1**  
**January 21, 2020**  
**Meeting Notes**

**Topic 1: Board Goals Dashboard**

- Superintendent Rains showed parents how they can find the district dashboard information.
- NWEA Benchmark 2 data will be presented at the February board meeting.
- Also reviewed were algebra readiness and tech skills mastery as well as Board Goal 2 data points of attendance and student involvement.

**Topic #2: Standards Alignment & Rigor**

- We reviewed the steps to standards alignment and rigor.
- Teachers just implemented the first round of common assessments and will review the data. The students will be participating in the second round of common assessments during the second semester.
- There are no grades given for common assessments at this time.
- It is the first year of common assessments so teachers will be analyzing the value of these assessments.

**Questions & discussions included:**

- As a parent, I would want to know how my child is doing especially if there is an area where the child needs to grow. They would like to have dialogue with teachers. John explained that the district is working towards how they will communicate the results. Katie McGrath mentioned that these assessments will be able to help with standards-based grading in the future.
- Is there any chatter about the accelerated math program and if it is helping or frustrating certain students? If a student is struggling in accelerated classes, they are having math for two periods and are also getting pulled from Encore. It is too much time for students. Are the students embracing it? *Most students have been properly identified for the accelerated program. There have been a few students moving in and out of the program based on performance. In both reading and math, teachers can focus more on student needs with the additional time.*
- One parent asked if the common assessments are on-line. *Yes, they are in Office 365 in Forms. Not every grade level is doing it on-line. Some of the questions are generated from some expired IAR questions bank.*
- One parent commented that she would caution using common assessments as a grade in the gradebook.
- One parent inquired about the Whole Child slide and extra-curricular activities and if there is any thought given to students participating in outside activities rather than just school run clubs. *At this time, we are just starting with school-based activities as required by the state.*

**Topic #3: Standards-based grading**

- The timeline for standards-based report cards for grades K-5 was reviewed.
- The district is considering a hybrid model for grades 5-8 in the future. Lincoln-Way does not utilize standards-based grading.
- One parent inquired if there is there any talk of sending home the MAP scores broken down by domains? *The current report provides an overall glimpse of how*

*students are progressing. The longer report can be requested by the teacher. The detailed report may be overwhelming to some parents viewing it.*

#### **Topic #4: Trimester reporting**

- We reviewed the possible transition to trimesters next school year.
- A committee of staff members was formed to review the educational benefits of trimesters.
- We reviewed some of the other local Lincoln-Way feeder districts that use trimesters now and the results of our teacher survey that was recently given to our staff.
- One parent inquired whether any encore offerings will be taken away at the junior high.. *None of the Encore classes are expected to change.*
- One parent commented that she would like to make sure grades would be available in PowerSchool prior to trimester mid-terms as it would be a bit longer than quarter mid-terms. *PowerSchool grading is always available to parents for viewing student grades.*
- One parent mentioned she would be fine with standards-based reporting and is happy to see there will be an N/A option. She said it was alarming as a kindergarten parent when there were mostly “1’s” on the report card.
- One parent asked if students will still receive percentage grades in addition to the 1, 2, 3, or N/A. *No, just numbers would be shown.*
- One parent asked if the district would look at our re-take policy since it might not be necessary with standards-based grading. Other inquiries included if the teachers would have to go back to previous trimesters to record if a student mastered something. *Our A & G team will be reviewing these items.*
- One parent inquired if there is any thought on a 4 for exceeding standards? *We did investigate that with our A & G team. At this time, 3 would be mastery and above.*
- One parent inquired if we do standards-based grading, how will it be determining what students will be ready for accelerated programs in the future? *We don’t use grades for determining accelerated placement.* She also asked if we will we ever do standards-based for older students and how that will work for NJHS if there is no GPA based on grades? *Some districts will do the hybrid modules for that reason. Most high schools will not do standards-based reporting.*
- Retake policy...will it be necessary after a standards-based report card. *Some of our Assessment & Grading Overview points may not be necessary in the future due to standards-based grading.*
- If a student does a homework assignment will the student still get a 1, 2, 3 based on how they did on the assignment? Will it still be recorded on PowerSchool? *These conversations are taking place now as it is a big shift.*
- Are we starting trimesters for next school year? *The conversations are occurring, but no determination has been made.*

#### **Go around:**

- We are heading in the right direction.
- We like the dashboard for a communication tool.
- Teachers are very passionate about their hard work on these initiatives.
- Standards-based grading will be awesome, but my child will miss it based on the timeline.
- Trimesters sound cool! That first month is tough for teachers and students.

- Love the communication that is being sent home to all parents. The community will be able to trust what the district is doing.
- Trimesters will be great.
- Item analysis on common assessments is great!
- Math and ELA curriculum resources are being reviewed for next year and the following year.
- Great presentation and am pleased with the direction of the district!
- Great idea for standards-based grading. Please ensure parents are provided details when communicating standards-based grading.
- Make sure for trimesters that the mid-terms are robust, so parents are provided information prior to conferences.
- So much great work has been done by everyone! Thank you for all the hard work!
- What will the reports look like for parents?
- It is exciting to hear our own kids talking about their NWEA scores and growth.
- The curriculum work that is going on has been great!
- As a special educator who lived the trimester transition in a previous district, the process was seamless. It will be just fine here, too.
- Long-term data will be great! It just takes a little time to get through the short-term goals.