West Central School District

Learning Advancement Committee

January 21, 2020

The LAC met for the first time on January 21. The committee reviewed and prioritized findings

from Ad hoc Learning Committee meetings held on December 2 & 19. The LAC both identified

which findings we have the ability to influence, and they also prioritized the findings we have

the ability to influence. This work will result in either solutions or recommendations.

Members Present – Paula Hawks, Amy Larson, Emily Bunkers, Amber Eberhard, Carolyn Spielmann, Ellen

Nester, Cheryl Prunty, Alesha Gregg, Nicole Harmon, Becky Jaspers, JoAnne Bohl,

Lana Main, Jeff Peterson, Matt Alley, Ashley Bahrenfuss, Melinda Jensen, Mark

Rockafellow, Brad Berens

**Personalized Learning**

1. Are we reaching students where they are and preparing them to progress, and how are we

tracking that?

1. How are we reaching students where they are and supporting them to be successful based on their needs?
2. Do we have the necessary tools, training, and time to motivate learning for all students while tracking that data to support their future learning?
3. Communication between teacher and parents and how that looks based on what is

happening in each classroom.

1. Allowance to take unlimited retakes, kids may just retake so they don’t have to learn. Same test is given and kids click through knowing the answers not the info.
2. Define Personalized Learning at West Central.
3. Motivation varies - for those that move quick what do we do? Am I stretching for the gifted?

Also at the lower level students are they really understanding. Do they get to all the math in that level? Teaching to the middle….

1. What resources do we have to keep these things going?
2. Teachers need time to analyze the data we have.

**Standard Based Grading**

1. Transition from elem, to ms, to hs.
2. How are we supporting teachers, parents, and students with all of the information?
   1. Empower
      1. Student mastery levels may not reflect actual level of mastery.
      2. May also provide parents more information than they desire.
      3. Has been a valuable tool for teachers to gather student data and extract reliable data.
3. Overwhelming amounts of information for teachers and parents when it is so much.
4. Are we not preparing them for hs?
5. Resources, the lack thereof for our teachers
6. Redefining better way to get a four and how to get it - how do we better explain it?
7. Are teachers really present when this much demand is placed on them?
8. How can we make this clearer for parents?

**Lack of Communication from School District to Parents**

1. Being notified sooner when kids are struggling
2. Class dojo has been great just want to make sure it’s being used consistently and

make sure that all of the teachers know what the others in their grade level are doing

1. Communicate the plan for SBG (Standards Based Grading) and our version of personalized learning
2. MAPS/NWEA testing – notify parents in advance. Parents could make sure kids are in bed on time
3. Positive feedback on dojo - putting everything in one place
4. More communication regarding leadership and practices
5. Elementary parents are only able to see one core teacher where in MS they are able to

visit with all teachers that work with their kids

1. Just because you don’t like what the communication says, doesn’t mean there isn’t communication.
2. How can we make all of this clearer for parents?

**Lack of Student Interest in Learning**

1. Kids have more freedom and flexibility [in the classroom] that they feel it’s up to them to learn so the drive to learn is not there, why study
2. More concrete on what learning looks like no matter if they are receiving a letter or a

number score- we feel that interest in learning is impacted by this because expectations

are not clear

1. Busy lives for kids - they need to work on facts at night - kids tell teachers they are too

busy- family units are different now than when we all grew up

1. Communication ties in because if parents are in the know then they can support
2. Are we preparing them for the next grade level, each building is different does that cause

there to be too much going on and takes away from learning

1. You have some students that are battling things at home that are bigger then school,

mental health issues. How do we help them beat those odds so they want to succeed in life?

1. Need structure.

Committee members are encouraged to share this information with stakeholders.