

MEMO

TO: Superintendent Ruscio

From: Mr. Van Etten

Date: 2 December 2013

Regarding: Quarterly Data Observations and Discussion

Over the past few weeks, information from the quarterly data report has been reviewed. In doing this, there are some noted areas for discussion. As this is the first opportunity to look at some of this information, the conversations have been introductory. I anticipate our conversations and analysis to grow as we have additional data to make comparisons to. I have identified three areas to speak further on.

Attendance

There is a noted decrease in attendance rate. There are several factors that I may have impacted this. I have identified them with brief summary below:

- Students beyond compulsory school age being continued in enrollment despite non-attendance. Schools are permitted to drop students from the rolls who are beyond compulsory school age and have failed to attend school for more than 20 days. In the last few years, rather than drop these students at day 21, high school staff members have worked to reach out and find ways for students to return to school or find out where they have gone to. This has an impact on the number of students, especially seniors, who have attendance percentages <85%.
- Students on all day field trips are shown as absent excused for the day. A number of field trips for the entire day have occurred during quarter 1. For the purposes of this report, these were counted as absent excused.
- Students involved in college visits, other educational experiences, or road tests. There are a number of excused absences at this level that do not impact students at grades K-8.

The high school student services team meets each Monday at 9am with one its focuses being attendance. Students with absences in excess of 1 per week are reviewed, with discussion of an action plan and follow up occurring.

Grade 9 - STAR ELA & Math

In October, grade 9 ELA students were administered the STAR Reading test and grade 9 Algebra students the STAR Math Assessment. At the end of October, grade 9 ELA and Math staff participated in training on the assessment and its interpretation. Data has supported student placements in classes with additional staff resources for students. Conversations with staff moving forward involve how to best work to improve student performance using the data we have.

HS Regents %Passing – 3 Years

One of the more difficult state exams for students at the high school level is the Regents Exam in Global History and Geography. The 3 year trend provided indicates a drop in results from 80% to 73%. In looking at the number of students tested and a longer trend in results, the 2011 increase in results is also the school year with the highest number of students tested (226 in 2011 compared to 179 the

following year). The increase in percentage in 2011 would appear to be the result of a higher than normal number of students taking the exam coupled with more successful retakes of students after working with staff members to prepare for the exam. Social studies teachers continue to work during AIS as well as afterschool to help students prepare for this and other exams taken in January.

Mrs. George, Social Studies CALT, and I have discussed looking at the data further to identify trends of weakness in student performance on the global exam with the goal of targeting these trends as areas of focus in global classes.