

North Wasco Ad Hoc Stewarding Body Meeting

February 13, 2024

Attendees: Dr. Bernal, Allie Ivey, Karen Perez, Valerie Rector, Judy Richardson, Kim Feicke, CJ Toole, Amy Hampton, Shannon Brennan

1. Welcome & Agenda Review

2. Recommendation Process & Consensus Based Decision Making

- a. Recommendation Process

3. Special Education Review Process

- a. Overview: Formal Recommendation
 - i. First conversation focused on overidentification. This conversation led to thinking about the internal processes for special education - there are two considerations both overidentification as well as students in special education not advancing how we would expect them to.
 - ii. Special education services today have not changed remarkably in the last two decades, however the students being served in the school district has changed. Changing population without an evolving service model.
 - iii. There is a need for an outside person to come in and audit what is happening in the special education department with the goal of focusing an extended amount of time on the entire system including in special education classrooms and push-in services.
 - iv. There are many EAs tasked with supporting students, however, there is a need for professional development in order to ensure that students' needs are being met.
 - v. Students on IEPs have lower outcome data in all areas and are not making the rate of growth as other students
 - vi. Outside auditor to audit with an unbiased lens to support programmatic changes within the special education department.
 - vii. This recommendation is linked to other plans in the district including the strategic plan as well as SIA.
 - viii. Success indicators including hiring a person to do the work as well as have access to open and honest conversations in addition to observations of classrooms.
 - ix. Reached out to ODE and other organizations to get quotes regarding the work.

- x. Funding request for \$100k with other recommendations coming after this recommendation on the basis of the recommendations provided by the outside auditor.
- b. Clarifying Questions
 - i. Are you still in the process of figuring out who will do the work?
 - 1. Yes, it is important to know that there is funding to support the work before officially identifying a person to do the work. Knowing whether this will be approved will be important before moving forward with the work.
 - ii. How booked out are those who you have contacted to complete the work?
 - 1. This depends - larger agencies might have longer wait times whereas individual contractors might be able to start work right away. While a bigger agency might be able to do more robust work, this work will take longer. The goal is to implement changes by the fall. For example, integrating recommendations from the outside contractor would be ideal to include within August training.
 - iii. Are they just analyzing strengths and weaknesses of what is going on or are they coming in with ideas from other districts?
 - 1. Hoping to come in and have them see what is working and what is not working while also providing recommendations about strategies to support the work moving forward. It is likely they will survey teachers and talk to teachers to find out how to build a better program. It is important for someone to come in and look at other programs including the SLC program. Having expertise in different subjects will ensure that the best recommendations are coming out of this audit.
 - iv. Who did you speak to at ODE?
 - 1. Don Doorman - North Wasco School District's Special Education District Support Specialist
 - v. Would this person/outside entity look at the building and see how often ESPs are not working with kids given that they are subbing?
 - 1. Yes, this is something that was recently brought to attention of district leadership. Prior they were not being put into AESOP. This is being addressed as it is a building specific concern, however, it is going to be addressed as part of the outside evaluator. This will likely come up in the ODE audit which will happen next year so having someone talk with teachers ahead of time will be a helpful outcome of this work.
 - vi. Third party evaluator - will they also evaluate teaching and classroom practices?
 - 1. This is more of an evaluative piece of the staff - concerned that if there is an evaluation of individual teaching. Looking more at what is occurring systematically. Discussed the importance of strategies being consistent across the district for students that are moving across

buildings. Within anticipated trainings, having common strategies that are effective for all students will be important.

vii. Why the \$100,000 amount?

1. Most people are \$1,000 a day - current estimate is around \$80k.

c. Discussion

- i. Please let the team know if there are any details to add. It is important for the special education department to be as strong as it can and it is going to take someone with an outside perspective to identify the strengths and needs within the department. As the student population is changing, ensuring that the training that teachers are receiving is aligned is incredibly important.
- ii. Encourage that some parent meetings get set up as part of this review process - this will be more powerful than only talking to families one on one. It will be comforting to parents to speak in a group but also anonymously so that they can share honestly and openly. This would be a really valuable place for honest feedback. This is why having an outside person come in to do this work and provide an objective unbiased review.
- iii. Monthly parent meetings would be a great addition - but hearing from parents first to better understand what they want/need, what options are there, and what services can and should look like will be important.
- iv. A document review will also be an important element of this work in addition to parents, staff, and student groups.
- v. The RFP document can include the various pieces that would be included in the work. The budget seems like it would work between \$100,000 - \$125,000. Stewards can support what is included in the RFP to support.

4. Open Space/Questions/Needs

5. Next Steps

- a. Stewarding Body Feedback on Recommendation through Google Form by 2/16
- b. Run through ODE Equity Tool and Refine Recommendation
- c. Advisory Body Feedback on Recommendation through Google Form
- d. Refinement of Recommendation
- e. If there is enough time/feedback discuss/Consensus during Stewarding Body Meeting on 3/1