



A Community of Learners

Informational Memo: August Institute Days' Overview

TO: School Board
Superintendent Kocanda

FROM: Daniel P. Ryan, *Assistant Superintendent of Professional Learning and Human Resources*

September 19, 2017

Each August we open up the school year with a set of Teacher Institute Days. We alternate each year with one and or two Institute Days prior to the first day with students. This year we had one day on August 28th. Schools also had the afternoon after the first student attendance day. There was content highlighting our District's history, professional learning objectives, and the introduction of Future Ready D36. We shared our primary focus for this upcoming school year: *Reaching All Learners and Future Ready D36*.

Monday, August 28 Institute Day Schedule:

8:30 - 10:30

District Meetings in Little Theater at Washburne

- Trisha Kocanda: "Winnetka's Progressive Identity", Past and Present
 - Whole Child
 - Individualized
 - Experiential Learning
- Introduction of Future Ready D36 led by Jason Lembke (DLR Group)
- Daniel Ryan: Professional Learning outline for 2017-18
- Introductions of new administrators: Brad Goldstein, Michelle Woodring, Pat Kritzman

The morning included a showing of a new D36 video highlighting Winnetka's unique educational approach that helps students excel and pursue their passions. We also defined a clear focus on the two goals for the year, *Reaching All Learners and Future*

Ready D36.

Building level Faculty Meetings

Monday, August 28

11:00 - 3:15

Tuesday, August 29

12:30 - 3:15

These meetings encompassed a variety of building specific topics. However at all buildings there was discussion around the following:

- Future Ready D36: Making sure that all faculty were aware of the roadmap regarding Phase I of the project.
- Reaching All Learners: Focus was placed on ways we can best align our services to all children so that we are streamlined in delivery of interventions to students at all levels.
- Articulation Meetings: Continued faculty discourse between grade levels and within teams regarding student needs.
- Policy Discussion: Update on policies in the District for faculty awareness, including new Transgender and Behavior policies
- School Improvement Plans: Faculty discussion on building- based focus connecting to vision

Feedback from faculty and staff was collected immediately after the Institute Days. There were 111 responses regarding the August 28th District Institute Day. 72% of Faculty felt it “increased knowledge and skills of District leaders and Continuous Professional Development”. There was some feedback that the DLR Presentation was a bit obscure. Faculty also wanted more time to get into their classrooms. Overall faculty shared, “Both Institute Days were well-organized and engaging.”

We greatly value the time available to us to deliver clear messages to faculty and staff regarding the vision and goals for the upcoming school year. This year we heard stories from alumni about progressive practices in the past as well as stories from current faculty about 21st Century Progressive practice, such as the use of the See Saw app for student generated electronic portfolios. It was an invigorating time for faculty and staff to collectively gather excitement about our vision for the 2017-18 school year.