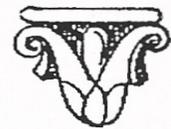


The Professional Committee



ProCom is a joint committee of
The Millard Public Schools and
The Millard Education Association



The PROCOM meeting was on December 11, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. at ESU #3.

DISTRICT: Keith Lutz, Angelo Passarelli, Jon Lopez, Ken Fossen, Lori Jasa, Andy DeFreece, Amy Friedman, Mark Feldhausen, Kim Saum-Mills

MEA: Molly Erickson, Tyler Berzina, Mike Foyt, Matt Heys, Jennifer Moylan, Paul Schulte, Reynee Shanahan, Erin Shirmang-Ward, Mike Wiesen , NSEA UniServ

1. Singleton PLCs

Molly Erickson reported that the MEA has been meeting with Kim Saum-Mills about scheduling issues for middle school exploratory teachers who participate in singleton PLCs. They currently meet outside of the student school day (3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m. for four times during the school year) while other teachers meet during the student school day. Virtual PLC meetings are a possibility; another possibility is during lunch. Molly said the MEA will ask for extra duty pay for singleton PLC leaders. Tyler Berzina raised the concern that some teachers meet in singleton PLCs and also district PLCs – he says both are valuable but the problem is that expectations are too high: teachers are asked to develop too many common assessments.

2. Climate Surveys

Molly Erickson asked if principals follow a common protocol in sharing the results of climate surveys in their schools. Jon Lopez said an electronic copy is sent to principals and supervisors of principals. No specific instructions are given about sharing with staff. Partial survey results are published in district data book, which is a public document. The assumption is that principals will share the results with the school improvement team and also use it in the site planning process. There is no reason it can't be shared with staff. Some principals send it electronically to all staff and discuss parts at department meetings. The climate survey was developed years ago by Dr. Crawford. He based the questions on PDK surveys. Last year, it was re-evaluated by a diverse group (administrators, teachers, students, and parents). Their feedback resulted in increasing the sample size and reducing the number of questions. Strategic plan action teams are now considering using another instrument. One possibility is Gallup's Building Engaged Schools survey. No change will be made next year, but a new climate survey could be ready as soon as 2010.

3. Learning Community

NSEA is discussing how it can work with the learning community board. Want meetings held in the evenings so teachers and parents can attend. Dr. Lutz gave an explanation of the multi-faceted law. He also said superintendents are meeting with Governor Heineman about holes in the law. One key problem is that there is no accommodation in the law for option enrollment in the 2009-10 school year. Millard averages about 450 new option kids per year and stands to lose millions if the law isn't changed.