

Feedback from the Group – January 19, 2010, Christiana High School. Strategic Planning Meeting on Learning Environment

PRIORITY 1: SUPPORT A CULTURE FOR LEARNING

- Support new teachers and help them cultivate success
- Differentiation of teaching – Differentiated instruction
- Teach time management skills to guidance counselors
- Ensure we have adequate supplies for ALL classrooms
- Home Access Center – Improve and make more consistent and welcoming
- Study student access to high level courses by disaggregating student groups
- Reduce class size
- Appearance of classrooms – upgrade so that students know they are valued
- Differentiated resources for teachers – technology, resources
- Instructional paras

PRIORITY 2: WELCOMING SCHOOLS:

Δ Inviting classrooms

Δ Inviting entrances @ all schools

- Feedback cards for front desk
- Increase cleanliness, artwork, writing, student work
- Friendliness should be encouraged in ALL schools
- Ensure we work with parents in their native languages
- Interpreters in parent conferences, at Board meetings

PRIORITY 3: SUPPORTING WHOLE STUDENT GROWTH

- Team sports at the middle school level
- Physical education should be required
- Art Club – after school activities
- Elementary students want to look forward to playing sports
- Music Program in elementary schools
- Pinpoint and target students in middle school that are at risk of dropping out
- Comprehensive review of extra-curricular activities
 - Anchor kids to school
 - More successful
 - Do we have the right mix?
 - Have we asked kids what they want?
 - What is the right amount for a kid to become anchored?

- How do we reach out to communities where student are at-risk?
- Transportation for after school activities?
 - Buses provided at middle school and high school now
 - Would need to calculate costs if this was expanded
 - Evening events – concerts & performances
- Review eligibility guidelines – take a holistic approach, not just academics
- 2.0 GPA and cycle of eligibility
 - Look at this plus other factors >9 weeks is a long time to wait...3-6 week review instead?
- Identify in elementary school which student are at-risk for dropping out
 - It will get worse for them
 - More frustrated
 - Pushes them out
- Identify kids that need emotional, academic support
- The sooner we have preventive measures, the more successful we will be in preventing drop outs
- Professional development for teachers on crisis management
- Family crisis therapists
 - Counseling
 - Guidance
- Identify reasons for lack of crisis therapists
 - Funding issues?

PRIORITY 4: EXPANDED OPPORTUNITIES FOR NON-TRADITIONAL

- Adjust start times to maximize student focus
- Expand on-line course opportunities
- Specialized high schools? Compete with vo-tech, etc.
- Be flexible in identifying students early on and meeting their needs
- Adjustment of time
- Figure out how to diagnose students
 - Adjustment of time
 - Better evaluations, identify what we can do
- Expand opportunities for cooperative work programs, work roster, internships