

Sat Dec 3, 2011
9:45-10:45 Am
Arizona Room

* Cooperative Efforts Among Small School Districts

Robin Parks
Board President
Capitan Municipal Schools

* Why should districts do this?

- * HJM 11 2011 Regular Session - A JOINT MEMORIAL REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE OFFICE OF EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY, THE OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR, REGIONAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVES AND OTHERS TO STUDY CONSOLIDATION OF SERVICES FOR SMALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS.
- * Did not pass this session.
- * Gateway for consolidation of small school districts.
- * Concept is not a bad starting point!

* Ground Rules to get Started

- * Look to do what is best for students. Protect classroom instruction.
- * Items discussed among your small group of schools should support your district's EPSS plan.
- * Be clear as an individual board of your beliefs and values for your district as you collaborate. (These values should be reflected in your EPSS plan)
- * Do not blindside your Superintendent/Admin Team by bringing up ideas in your group that you have not already shared with them.
- * Just because a question is asked, does not mean there will be a change in policy, procedure, etc. now or in the future.
- * Follow the Open Meetings Act.

* Guideline to work through process Defend less Explore more:

- * Explore how new ideas compare and contrast to established ideas.
- * Explore the potential results of new ideas compared and contrasted to the results of old ideas.
- * Define the dangers of clinging to established ideas and the danger of adopting the new.
- * Examine established ideas in light of the new.
- * Acknowledge built in bias for the tried and true and skepticism toward the new.

* Guideline to work through process Benefits:

- * Our bias toward staying the same is normal and often helpful. Clinging to the known is a platform for making sense of innovative ideas.
- * Adopting innovative ideas makes sense if they more fully align with reality than established ideas.
- * Additionally, the benefits of adopting an innovative idea must surpass the benefits of staying the same. Change for the sake of change isn't worth the effort.
- * Exploring new ideas must include the questions, "What are the benefits of staying the same?" "What are the benefits of adopting a new idea?" "Does this new idea better align with reality?"

* Guideline to work through process Champion & Values:

- * Most importantly, someone must *tenaciously and gently* champion innovation during the exploration. This sounds like defending but it isn't if you use the questions above.
- * The decision to adopt an innovative idea or to remain the same often boils down to values. Colliding values create tension around adopting or rejecting innovations. Wise leaders listen for values. *It's easier to explore, reject, or adopt innovations when groups share values.*
- * When values collide, exploration ends and conversations move from pros and cons to who's right and who's wrong.
- * If your group discovers a better process for this, please share!

*** Ideas on Where to Collaborate**

- * What is available through your districts REC or RCC? What is available in others but not the one your district belongs to?
- * Purchasing - through coop agreements, supplies, and food services contracts. NSBA has BuyBoard Cooperative Program.
- * Resources - Higher AP classes or language classes through use of ITV setup. Being able to share an instructor that your school may only need for an hour or two a day.
- * Course Management System software such as Blackboard, lessons available for snow days to help prevent makeup. Worked for one district last year. May not work in the future without prior approval.
- * Protecting mid-school athletics in a different way. Round Robin events among several schools, possible use of parents as officials. Ability to build program and keep competitive edge.
- * Paperless board meetings. Service through NMSBA or use of CMS software (Blackboard or Moodle, a program available throughout the state.)
- * Training & Professional Development

*** Logistics to be Considered**

- * Athletics that preserve class time. Won't happen unless the board pushes it.
- * Schedule of school day if using ITV classes
- * School calendars (may want to consult with college & branch colleges in your area.)
- * Teachers willing to work with ITV

*** Share what works & what doesn't**

- * Try to identify why
- * Funding - fund what works
- * Consider funding sources you may not have used before such as EdTech Notes.
- * How will your districts implement dual credit, on-line classes and AP class requirements for upcoming graduates?

*** Reference Notes & Contact Info**

- * Defending New Ideas without Being Defensive by Dan Rockwell at <http://leadershipfreak.wordpress.com/2011/11/13/defending-new-ideas-without-being-defensive/>. There are lots of great ideas on his blog.
- * Robin Parks - parksr@capitan.k12.nm.us
- * <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Capitan-School-Board-Musings/145904718801510>
- * Course Management System (CMS), also known as a Learning Management System (LMS) or a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) www.moodle.org
- * <http://www.nsba.org/Services/BuyBoard/default.aspx>

*** Notes**

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