

# November Staff Development

===== A NEWSLETTER FOR THE STAFF BY DR. DOMINY =====

## MORE MOMENTS!

I was in a room of 43 people the other day, and I asked each one of them to share with their elbow partner a positive moment from school that was not an athletic/activities event or a dance. The room lit up with stories, facial expressions, and gratitude for the moments that these people had in their lives. We heard about things like the principal taking a senior to vote for the first time, a teacher celebrating with a student an accomplishment on a difficult test, an experience in outdoor education, and several other examples of elevated moments.

Last month I challenged you to think about your classroom, and consider the moments that students will take from your time with them. These moments do not need to be "Epic" but we do need to take the effort to be intentional about creating moments. I think that the video below is well done and I would argue that in education, we are very good at fixing potholes and making sure that schools run smoothly, but what would happen if instead of fixing potholes, we focused on building Peak Moments? How many more students would we engage, how many lives would we change? Creating moments is legacy work, the moments are the means by which people will remember you and your classroom. What will you do today to impact your students and your legacy for tomorrow?



## OUR EVALUATION MODEL- ASSESSMENT

This month we are taking a deeper look at assessment within our teacher evaluation model.

The descriptor for the model states: Teachers provides formal and informal assessment opportunities, and students are told how the assessments relate to a proficiency scale.

The teacher facilitates tracking of student progress on one or more learning goals using a formative approach to assessment.

### Teacher Evidence

- Teacher helps students track their individual progress on the learning goal.
- Teacher assigns scores using a scale or rubric that depicts student status relative to the learning goal.
- Teacher uses formal and informal means to assign scores to students.
- Teacher charts the progress of the entire class on the learning goal.
- Teacher develops and uses varied and appropriate assessments and accommodations based on instructional objectives and student needs.
- Teacher uses both formative and summative assessments and the resulting data to inform instruction, monitor student progress over time.
- Teacher provides time and meaningful feedback to each student.
- Teacher seeks to assure that classroom-based assessment instruments and procedures are effective, free of bias, and appropriate to the developmental and linguistic capabilities of students.
- Teacher develops or selects appropriate assessments and interprets the resulting data, both individually and with colleagues.
- Teacher uses strategies that enable students to set high expectations for personal achievement, and to assess, monitor, and reflect on their own work.

- Teacher compiles and reports assessment data to accurately document student progress over time.

Student Evidence:

- Students can describe their status relative to the learning goal using the scale or rubric.
- Students can systematically update their status on the learning goal.
- Students demonstrate understanding through a variety of informal and formal assessments.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

Staff,

I hope to take a moment during the next few staff development newsletters to update you all on our progress regarding the strategic plan. We have 40 people on the Strategic planning group. The group consists of parents, teachers, administrators, board members, board candidates and a paraprofessional. My role and Dr. Fields' role during the strategic planning is to facilitate the process.

Our first meeting was a success, we met at the high school library and we created draft beliefs, parameters, and a mission. We will continue to review and come to consensus on these topics during our next couple of meetings. At our next meeting we will identify our objectives and strategies- this is where the group will identify our priorities for the next 5 years.

At our November 21 staff development day, we will highlight some of our work and give you the opportunity to provide feedback. Thank you to all of the strategic planning team members for your time and engagement.

