

1. Jay Strang:

- a. Progress of Professional Development time on Wednesday mornings.
  - i. Creating these PLCs , Professional Learning Communities , started in May 2009 when all administrations were brought onboard with a tool kit.
  - ii. At the end of July, the work of four schools already using PLC concepts was highlighted at a meeting of all administrators.
  - iii. Ongoing presentations/collaboration at the principal meetings to continue staff development on the process of PLC work.
  - iv. Strang and staff are in buildings every Wednesday to offer support and gather data on PLC implementation.
  - v. Each school is responsible for a list of expectations. Call Mr. Gorbatkin if you wish to discuss PLC, SMART goals and the School Improvement Plan for Crone MS.
  - vi. In theory, one result of PLC is it should enable a teaching team to use data from various classroom assessments to evaluate/examine the instructional practice. This is a good thing. It will allow the teacher who is effective, as shown by student assessments, to share their methods with other teachers.
  - vii. Now that PLC is fully integrated, principals should be communicating results through list serve and newsletters. PTA's should have PLC as a regular agenda item.
- b. Institute Days are mandated by the county.

2. Dr. Birkett:

- a. Tune up your knowledge of the district with Board Docs on the website. The community now has access to the board agenda and all *supporting* documents. Should make some very interesting reading.
- b. The 2010-2011calendar was approved and has been published. IPPC was thanked for gathering parent input. Parent input was utilized and found helpful in the process.
- c. The district is developing an austerity plan. I had to look this one up - Austerity is usually required when a government's fiscal deficit spending is felt to be unsustainable. It was pretty clear that we won't like the austerity plan so let's hope it won't be necessary. The district is facing a \$9.2 million deficit if the economic situation continues on its current course. There are also concerns about the state's ability to pay monies owed the district. On that note, did you vote?
- d. The district has an Energy Management person. Didn't understand much about this position and no time available for questions. The EM person is part of Aramark, the custodial services contactor for the district. I recall that Pat Decker, past Student Services Supervisor for the district, made substantial gains in the area of energy conservation.
- e. Members requested a review of communication on the transition from elementary to middle school. Some parents indicated this was a daunting experience. Requested a return of the parent meeting before class selection sheets are sent home.

3. IPPC committee reports

- a. Reflections entries have moved to the state level. See a posting on Crone PTSA website for details.
- b. Legislative committee will hold a Meet Your Legislators on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 pm. More details will follow via list serve.

- c. Illinois PTA convention will be held at Holiday Inn Select in Naperville from March 12 – 14<sup>th</sup>. For details, please see their website at <http://www.illinoispta.org/>
- 4. IPPC members may submit questions to be answered later. Below is one of those questions:
  - a. REGARDING THE HOMEWORK POLICY, WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED? WHAT IS THE FEEDBACK FROM TEACHERS?

The elementary homework statement has been met with mixed reviews amongst the staff. Our primary teachers (kindergarten through second) and those intermediate teachers who are current on assessment for learning research are supportive. We do, however, need to continue our professional development for those who struggle to replace homework grades with more suitable measures of students' grasp.

We are also continuing to reinforce that homework is an essential part of the learning process. It needs to be assigned, and teachers need to give students timely feedback on it. We have a small number of teachers who don't yet understand the need for homework and homework feedback if a letter grade is not assigned. Principals are now helping those teachers on a more individual basis.

Respectfully submitted  
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Crone IPPC representative