

MONDAY MORNING COLLABORATION

During World War II, Winston Churchill is credited with saying, "failing to plan is planning to fail." Last month I wrote about the clear direction that our school board set to more fully engage our students in their learning. Staff collaboration will help design lessons for deeper student engagement and to plan the educational activities for our students requires. Our school board charged a collaboration committee to study our needs and to make recommendations. The committee established five primary goals. These goals and the outcomes follow that received our school board approval:

- GOAL 1: to comply with state guidelines minimum class time guidelines

The district will comply with state guidelines which require that the district offers at least a minimum number of instructional hours. The final plan, which includes a ***one hour delay each Monday*** morning starting this fall, meets or exceeds the state standard. Furthermore, last year we began all day kindergarten, four days per week. Even with this one hour delay, our kindergarten minimum contact hours far exceeds the minimum hours.

- GOAL 2: to provide collaboration at minimal to no cost.

A Monday delayed start minimizes financial cost for collaboration, including bussing issues.

- GOAL 3: to establish a time that includes few distractions for teachers and principals to work together.

Collaboration before teacher-coaches and teacher-advisors to complete collaboration without having students wait after school to begin extracurricular activities. In addition, collaboration on Monday morning allows for immediate impact within the classroom.

- GOAL 4: to provide a concrete structure for the collaboration.

Each week the teachers and administrators will focus upon one or more of the *Three Ways to Improve Learning* as developed by from Harvard educator, Richard Elmore, which includes:

1. Raise the level of content being taught;
2. Increase the skill & knowledge of teachers of the content; and
3. Increase the students' active learning of (engagement with) the content.

- Goal 5: to keep the staff and community informed about the collaboration outcomes.

To help keep our staff and community informed, principals will post to our website a two to five sentence summary of the collaboration outcomes. This posting will also serve to memorialize the work of our staff.

Our teachers and administrators strive to provide the best education possible for our students. We believe that the ***one hour Monday delay*** will provide deeper and richer educational outcomes for our students.