



TRITON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

To: Middle School Task Force

From: Kathleen Willis

Subject: Meeting Summary: March 27, 2007

Date: March 29, 2007

Present: Patty Sommers, Denise Mills, Karen Drahozal, Paul Lees, Nancy and Mike Reusch, Jan Tosi, Paige Ribaldo, Sandi Kearney, Nancy Reed, and Kathy Willis attended the meeting from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. The following agenda items were discussed:

Mission/Purpose: To research the three types of grouping of middle school students (Homogeneous, heterogeneous, and flexible) and report the findings to the superintendent.

Goals, Objectives, Actions, Timeline: In order to determine our goals and objectives we first brainstormed a list of our concerns as **what we wanted to know:**

1. What is the background on the school council's decision to favor heterogeneous grouping in all areas except math?
2. Is student achievement different based on the grouping practices?
3. How do teachers meet the needs of all students in a heterogeneous classroom?
4. What are models of successes/failures?
5. Is there statistical data (state/federal) regarding grouping practices?
6. Are there behavioral ramifications of grouping students?
7. What are the effects of groupings on scheduling?
8. Content area grouping-which subjects? Any? All?
9. How does grouping impact the different achievement types of students?
10. What are the effects on class size?
11. What is the current status? Do teachers teach current levels the same or differently? What have we been doing and why change?
12. Are there additional staffing needs?
13. Is there a cost impact?
14. What training may be needed?
15. How can we use volunteers in the classrooms?
16. Does this create a space issue?
17. What are the social issues related to groupings?
18. Look at achievement data (such as MCAS) and research best groupings to meet students' needs.
19. What are student perceptions (from grades 6-8) of grouping?
20. Would students be prepared for higher level high school courses if heterogeneously grouped in middle school?
21. Does Triton's new gifted and talented program meet the needs of the high achieving students and negate the need of advanced classes?

Member Roles: First role to be discussed is the recorder. It was determined that this role would rotate with Jan Tosi recording the minutes of this meeting. A rotation will be set up by Kathy Willis for the remaining meetings.

Next Steps:

Kathy Willis will:

1. Set up a schedule for recording meeting minutes.
2. Send out a letter to elementary parents asking for their concerns regarding grouping of middle school students and to let the parents know that nothing is changing for the academic year 2007-2008.
3. Gather readings on the subject relating to the committee's concerns.
4. Arrange a time when we can meet with the Triton Middle School Council.

Members of the committee will:

1. Read the materials sent out by Kathy.
2. Share any readings that they have researched.
3. Review the list and identify broad goals.
4. Include objectives under each goal.
5. List activities that will be directed by the goals and objectives.
Some possible activities: readings, practices in other districts with high performing middle schools, site visits, surveys, NELMS, and to communicate findings to everyone in the district.

Next meetings:

The next meetings are scheduled for **Tuesday, May 1, 2007 at 6:00 pm** and **Tuesday, June 5, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Superintendent's Office Conference Room.

Middle School Task Force	
Member	Role
Denise Mills	Parent-NES
Paul Lees	Parent-PGS
Nancy and Mike Reusch	Parent-SES
Karen Drahozal	Parent-MS
Patty Sommers	Parent-MS
Janet Tosi	Gr. 7 Teacher
Paige Ribaud	Gr. 8 Teacher
Sandi Kearney	SPED Teacher
Nancy Reed	Asst. Principal
Kathleen Willis	Asst. Superintendent

cc: Sandra J Halloran Christine Kneeland Peter Gadd
Jennifer Roberts Sylvia Jordan James Montanari