

UMS Restructuring Committee Notes
First Whole Group Meeting
November 17th, 2008

Present: Erika Uskali (ROE), Jean Korder, Donna Oakes-Novak, Patrick Russell, Nancy Clinton, Jason Pound, Theresa Feller, Priscilla Kron, Natalee Steffen, Chris Bazell, Meagan Welch, Kevin Erlinger, Carolyn Jenkins, Leslie McClintock, Janice Mitchell, Dionne Webster, Angie Schoonover, Tisa Trask (parent), Phoebe Leneer (parent), Jennifer Rohn, Deb Heater, Judy Pece, Melani Ferchow, Ashely Hackstadt, Tracy Welch, Elizabeth Scherer, Susan Baker-Ory, Joe Wiemelt, Bruce Rummie, Deb Tamimie, Karen Schreiber, Erin Lodes, Catherine Hunter (UIUC), Kathy Barbour, and Don Owen (chair)

Welcome, sign in, and introductions

Agenda for the Meeting:

1. Define restructuring
2. Decide on norms
3. Look at student data
4. Look at UMS School Improvement Plan

Overview of materials in the folders

On-line resources:

- School Improvement Plans and other district plans on the usd116.org website (link off of the Schools page)
- IIRC (www.iirc.niu.edu)

Definition of Restructuring (from the ISBE Restructuring Plan Guide): “Restructuring means a major reorganization of a school’s governance structure arrangement by a district that...” makes “fundamental reforms”, will improve student learning, and meets state law

Overview of four restructuring options (from the ISBE Restructuring Plan Guide):

- Charter school
- Replace all or most of school staff,
- Make a contract with an outside entity
- Major restructuring of the school’s governance that makes fundamental reform in...
 - Governance and management, and/or
 - Financing and material resources, and/or
 - Staffing

UMS will be restructured using the fourth option.

Our big question to ask over and over throughout the restructuring planning: Are the changes we are making sufficient to have an impact on student achievement?

ISBE monitoring questions will be what the state looks at to determine whether a plan is effective (from the ISBE Restructuring Plan Guide p. 4)

General Discussion/Question and Answer about NCLB and Restructuring:

- NCLB was authored in 2001, and there are several things that will change as it is revised next year, but all indications are that those revisions will be aimed at making the application of the law more consistent across the states.
- The task of this committee is to create a framework for change that will bring about continuous improvement. The committee will not be eliminating programs – that process will be done as part of the restructuring process, not the writing of the plan.
- “What does changes in governance and staffing mean?” It could mean a number of things for UMS. We (as a committee and a school/district) need to focus on the question, how do we structure a school day to best meet the needs of our students? Staffing is a broad term in this instance. This could mean flexible scheduling or changes in delivery models for special education and targeted students. Governance is connected to frameworks for decision making, like Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and monitoring the effective use of time.
- We will look at a wide variety of data in this process. Not just ISAT scores, but local assessments, grades, discipline, attendance, and ThinkLink scores. Some of this will be done by the committee as we write the plan, some of this will become part of the process of continuous school improvement.

Goals of the committee:

1. Define framework that we will be working under here in the building and at the district
2. Frame how restructuring will look in this building
3. Research models of restructuring and continuous improvement
4. Recommend changes to improve student learning

Norms

- Definition of, reasons for, and examples of norms
- Non-negotiable norm: Don will provide minutes of meetings and feedback to wider community.
- Look at UHS Restructuring Committee Norms (Do we want to revise these, add to these, or eliminate some of these?)
- Write revisions, additions, or other changes to the UHS norms on the 4 X 6 cards
- Don will make changes based on the responses on the cards, and send out a draft for comment and review.

Homework for next meeting:

- Look at student data provided in folder (one set of pages shows bar graphs with all students' ISAT scores in reading and math; the other set shows disaggregated ISAT data by subgroups) and your classroom data

- Go through the UMS School Improvement Plan, especially the programs and activities that start on page 30... How are we going to frame a way to see if these things are working?

Next Meeting:

**Tuesday, November 25, 2008
6:30-8PM
UMS 1520**