

Highland Park High School Course Team Log

The purpose of this document is to help organize the course team's work and to capture the important aspects of this work for secondary members to read and understand.

All course team facilitators should complete this log and post it to the wiki after each of their team meetings.

Meeting No. _____

Date: October 12/13, 2011

Facilitator: __Tim Conway

Team members present: Fine and Applied Arts Department on 10/12 for an hour) Then we broke into three groups: Applied Arts, Visual Arts and Performing Arts w/John Connolly.

BRIEF summary of discussion, activities, and work conducted (bullet points will suffice):

We had a healthy discussion today with the whole department and then Performing Arts(and John Connolly) had a deep discussion about it when we broke into small groups. The general feedback is this; everyone feels that the discussion of race (along with bullying and *Race to Nowhere*) is important and has been on the table for a couple of years. Doing a large group "discussions" felt like a step backward. We want to move to the action plan part; give us time in small groups to talk about situations that we have encountered and what was done, what should have been done etc. We need a chance to do some role playing or "This is what I did" or "What could I have done" conversations. We want to close the gap from theory to practice and that can only happen in smaller, "hands on" discussions. This is about personal discovery and we need the time/situation for that to happen.

Scott and I would like to offer Playback Theatre as a method for sharing stories that teachers have encountered and what they experienced and how that experience could have changed. This is right up their alley. It would not work for the entire faculty at one time, but maybe as part of a menu of choices someday.

One last thing; at the end our discussion the cafeteria and the hallway outside of the cafeteria came up. Both Sheri and Dia spoke about their discomfort in walking down that hallway and the tension that it creates as if walking through a gauntlet. They were both very passionate about the negative interactions between groups down there. Both Dia and Sheri are open to sharing their thoughts and feelings concerning this to you personally. Jim and others brought up the garbage in the cafeteria and how the students interact with staff as part of the whole race, bullying, etc discussion. People are pretty passionate about it all. I think it is a good time to take steps forward.

For our next meeting we need to do the following:

- **Discussion regarding a “Participation Grade”.** We have all moved from the generic participation grade to one that is focused on values we all share. The title we like is *Aesthetic Discipline*. The elements are: engagement, exploration, collaboration, evolution and interpretation. We also discussed the being inquisitive is an important trait for all of our students. Part of active engagement is a focused and dedicated approach to the class. We each can shape these ideas to fit our classes as well as the individual student.
- **Common Assessment.** We all agreed that we can look for elements in our student’s work that are a “common assessment” in principle. While the creative process differs from discipline to discipline it is something that we all share. Perhaps another way to look at it is creative problem solving in relationship to the creative process. Unlike many other disciplines in school, there is often more than one solution to a problem.
- **How do we handle projects/performances that are not completed?** The discussion here broke into two segments. First, if a student is struggling and communicates effectively we all agreed that adapting or reaching out to help a student by adjusting deadlines etc . is our common practice. However, there are times when a student chooses to fail and perhaps the best lesson we can teach is that there are consequences to our actions. Citizenship is certainly something we all teach.

2 minute feedback loop: commit to sharing verbal feedback about the meeting. Capture these thoughts here:

Next meeting:

Date:_____October 19, 2011_____

Location:_____E105_____