

- **March 7, 2012**

Posted by Shannon Focht at 3/7/2012

Report from Craig Nelson, Principal at Jefferson Elementary:

On the Collaboration Day in March, the elementary staff met as a whole group at Jefferson Elementary School. While we were all together in the multi-purpose room, we discussed modifying the district report card and the math materials selection committee's progress in reviewing math curriculum materials.

The teachers divided up by grade levels to review the four curriculum packages at their grade level. Teachers reviewed core instruction, auxiliary materials, and technology components included with each package. The math materials selection committee had already evaluated each package for alignment to the common core state standards in math. Title I and Special education staff met separately to review intervention materials for math. Some of the intervention programs are included in the packages and others are stand alone products. Paraprofessionals that assist in instruction were involved in one of the groups to be included in the discussion.

We all look forward to continuing the discussion in our buildings during the collaboration day on Wednesday, April 11.

Report from Joe Thornton, Principal at Pullman High School:

On the afternoon of March 7, the combined staff of LMS and PHS worked together as departments on a number of different topics ranging from developing common writing rubrics in English to working on protocols for student file management in the visual arts and communications. The science department continued work on the 6-12 notebooking system that is being implemented. World Language worked on a grading rubric for writing in both French and Spanish. Social Studies continued discussions around scope and sequence and the changing graduation requirements as they relate Social Studies. Music discussed active listening skills and assessment techniques.

Report from Laurie Stegner, PHS English teacher:

The English department at PHS has found collaboration quite helpful. In the fall, we worked with the high school faculty to develop a common writing rubric for essays. Many requested we begin with a paragraph rubric since so much learning is measured by student-written paragraphs. In our February meeting, we took drafts of paragraph rubrics to the other disciplines and now have a rubric for each of the four grade levels. We have also benefited by the opportunity to work with our colleagues at the middle school, sharing essays from all six grade levels and cross-referencing our current curriculum with the Common Core Standards.