

Our Path to First Choice No.10
2018/19

Everyone,

The cooler weather has arrived. Stay warm, and take in all that autumn offers. Enjoy the rest of your week.

Our Path Topic

Another Action Team that has been moving forward is our Attendance Team. This group is looking at both student and staff attendance and how to improve it. This Action Team is led by Aaron Taylor--our middle school principal.

The action team developed an attendance flowchart. Some of this process will depend on the award of a possible grant for which WASD submitted an application. The team included various stakeholders as teachers, administrators, county officials, the district justice, and others.

The team looked at the data and research (assessed the needs of the stakeholders), developed some ideas and came up with a plan. In addition, the team developed an attendance brochure to better communicate the myths and facts about student attendance in school.

Finally, the attendance team developed a WASD Attendance Letter Procedures list that provides the type of letter (type of absence concern), a direction for when to produce the letters, and how to send/mail the letters. That provides administration and assistants some guidance.

With such a process, the team will continue its work by looking at how it will use data to determine if the process is indeed having an impact on student attendance. In addition, they will have to look at how they will deploy the information to make sure each involved stakeholder knows what is expected.

Finally, the Attendance Team is going to be focusing on current language in our attendance letters, so they are effective but not threatening, and will explore kindergarten letters to help inform parents.

A big kudos to our Action Teams and their work, and to our administrators helping to facilitate and lead the process for ongoing WASD improvement.

Next week, we will look at another Action Team's progress in achieving our strategic objectives.

Board Information and Policy Updates

- Attached are: **906—Public Complaint Procedures and 918—Title I Parent Family Engagement.**
- The Board's next meeting is October 23rd at 7 PM in the Clayton Avenue Board Room.

Piece of the Puzzle

Erica McDonald is this week's Piece of the Puzzle. Erica is WASD's special education supervisor. She does an amazing job of explaining the continuum of services to parents in a way that is friendly, informative, and not overwhelming. She also does a lot to support our district's special education teachers in terms of paperwork and available services. When you see Erica, congratulate her for being the Piece of the Puzzle.

Review for You

What is the vision of WASD?

Events

- Trick or Treat is October 25th.

Review Answer

WASD is embarking on a journey to bring its vision to reality. That vision is *First Choice*. *First Choice* is having a school system that prepares a student for their first choice of what he/she wants to do upon graduation.

Final Thoughts

- *In order to carry a positive action we must develop here a positive vision—Dalai Lama*
- *Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality.—Warren Bennis*
- *Vision is the art of seeing what is invisible to others—Jonathan Swift*
- *The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.—Helen Keller*
- *Action without vision is only passing time. Vision without action is merely day dreaming, but vision with action can change the world.—Nelson Mandela*
- *Hold the vision. Trust the process.—Author Unknown*

Have a great rest of the week!

Tod