



Standing Committee on Inclusionary Practices

April 12, 2023

Location: District Office for Bellingham Public Schools, 1306 Dupont Street

Time: 4-5:30 p.m.

Presenters: Courtney Ross; director of special education; Debbie Haney, assistant director of early learning and Mike Copland, deputy superintendent

Members present: Mike Copland, deputy superintendent; Debbie Haney, assistant director of early learning; Courtney Ross Webb, director of special education; Bethany Verner, assistant director of special education; Nina Ballew, teacher on special assignment; JiSarah Rose, kindergarten teacher, Dana Smith, assistant director of communications; Helena Quigley, kindergarten teacher, elementary; Brian Pahl, teacher at Shuksan middle school; Sarah Cauley, teacher at King elementary.

Welcome:

Courtney Ross Webb welcomed the group and reviewed the agenda.

Review the Charge:

Courtney asked the team to talk with a partner about what they chose to focus on in their conversation and what they learned.

Teams shared.

- We need to continue to work to intentionally demystify disability and what it requires.
- This work is very important.
- Provide training in how to support student needs.
- Have conversations focused on universally designed opportunities and how to regulate.

Expert Groups Teamwork:

Team members divided into expert groups. The five expert groups are: Tier 1 & MTSS; Inclusive Culture; SEL and Behavior; Technical Resources and Vision Planning and Strategic Implementation. These expert groups will gather knowledge into one learning engagement. The expert groups tasks spent the remaining time working together to provide ideas, thoughts, strengths, and questions that relate to their expert group and then created a OneNote page using the posters and artifacts provided in the room and answer the following questions:

1. What did you learn from the posters? (Strengths, challenges, next steps, etc.)
2. Review the artifacts: What do we already have in place and what are we missing?
3. Within your expert group, what are examples of inclusive practices that highlight your expert group topic?
4. What are the potential next steps or recommendations?

Expert teams shared thoughts and ideas from their group.

- Working on the definition of inclusion as a group
- What language to use around students and what the roles/responsibilities around that language
- Looking at options with tech resources
- Proactively plan rather than reactive planning. How to shift resources proactively and provide scheduled collaboration time among colleagues.
- Look at all tiers and provide equal support.
- What is instruction?
- Provide collaboration preventative with our models.
- Refocus on all children regardless of age and learner.

Wrap up:

There are 2-3 spots available to visit Ruby Bridges Elementary, a school practicing inclusionary strategies on April 18, 2023. There are 10 spots available on May 2, 2023. If interested in attending, please email Courtney Ross Webb.

The homework is to look for examples related to your expert group in your own building or classroom and add artifacts to the OneNote. Go visit sites and see inclusive practices in action. Please bring your expertise and then make a plan. This is a learning process.

Don't know where to visit or need help facilitating? Please email Analisa Ficklin, Courtney Webb Ross, Mike Copland, Nina Ballew, Jenny Lawrence or Arionda Feeney.

Be sure to update the padlets and OneNote! Presenters will compile notes and send to team members.

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 17, 2023, 4:00-5:30 p.m., Bellingham Public Schools District Office