

Brodhead Schools Areas of Focus End of Year Update

By Superintendent Lenny Lueck

At the beginning of the 2017-18 school year the Brodhead School Board developed “Areas of Focus” for the District. The Board identified three Areas of Focus: student achievement, service, and people. Through the use of annual results measures, progress monitoring, and strategic actions, the District will be able to assess and measure progress of these Areas of Focus.

In the area of student achievement, new assessments have been instituted at the High School using the ACT program. A new assessment program called IReady was piloted at select Middle and Elementary levels. This program has been chosen to replace MAP’s and will be implemented in 2018-19. Staff has received training on how the system works and can be used. The School Board also learned information about the system and approved the new program. We believe this new system will provide better information in regards to student progress. All three schools have implemented Professional Learning Communities (PLC’s). These PLC’s focused on learning targets this year and will continue with this area in 2018-19.

As far as service is concerned, a parent/guardian satisfaction survey was completed in December. There were 824 invitations emailed and another 38 were mailed out to parents/guardians without an email address listed with the school. There were 330 responses to the survey. The District will use these results in the following years to determine priorities for the District’s Areas of Focus. The Staff has also concentrated on making more positive contacts with parents/guardians. Overall there were 2,213 positive staff contacts with parents. The Elementary School had 346 calls and 476 cards, the Middle School had 236 calls and 485 notes, and the High School had 122 calls and 548 cards. This effort was very successful and will remain a focus for next school year based on parent and Staff feedback.

Finally, in the area of people, the District Staff completed an employee engagement survey in late spring. This survey will help the District understand the climate, culture, and communication of the District regarding its employees. The Administration also implemented a technique called “rounding” with the Staff. Rounding is a process that questions Staff concerning their thoughts about working for the District. Overall, 106 employees were rounded with. The Elementary School had 29, the Middle School had 51, the High School had 19 and the District Office had 10. These results of the rounding sessions, along with the survey, will help determine District priorities in 2018-19.

Overall, the District continues to work towards evidence-based, continuous improvement. We will continue these Areas of Focus into next year with an emphasis on the information that has been received. The Board, Administrators, and Leadership Team will meet over the summer to continue work on the District’s Areas of Focus and will develop priorities for 2018-19.