

Advance Notice  
1/13/10

Powerful Teaching and Learning: The BERC Group – Rasmussen

**Action to be taken: Presented for information only, no action needed.**

Over the course of the past five months the district Leadership Team has been working with Dr. Duane Baker and the BERC Group to ***focus efforts on ensuring the most effective instruction possible is taking place for all students in all classrooms across the district in order to improve student learning.*** As a district we have done a great job selecting and aligning curriculum and assessments to our state standards—the “what” of teaching. This work with Dr. Baker has brought us to the next phase—the “how” of teaching. The BERC Group’s STAR Protocol for Powerful Teaching and Learning (PTL) is the framework the Leadership Team and Building Leadership Teams have been using to guide discussions related to teaching and learning and to reflect on their own teaching practices as well as the impact these practices have on student learning.

The goal for this year is to establish a common awareness and understanding related to Powerful Teaching and Learning among administrators and key staff members from each of our schools. To reach that end, the Leadership Team has participated in seven half-day trainings and have had the opportunity to visit other schools to conduct classroom observations referred to as “Learning Walks.” In addition, teams of 4-6 teachers from each building have attended three full days of training and participated in multiple “Learning Walks” in different schools throughout the district.

As a result of the work with the BERC Group this year, principals have gained the requisite knowledge, materials, and skills necessary to model Powerful Teaching and Learning for staff. And, each school has a team of 4-6 teachers who are capable of sharing the basic message and experience of Powerful Teaching and Learning back to their respective staffs to build common awareness and common understanding.

Dr. Duane Baker will be joining us at the January 13 board meeting to share with the Board further information about Powerful Teaching and Learning, STAR Protocol, and the BERC Group’s work with district and school teams.

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