

Local Area Overview

San Juan BOCES Area Superintendents – Implementation of Educator Effectiveness System and Colorado Academic Standards

- San Juan BOCES – Archuleta County to Dove Creek – 9 School districts
- The San Juan BOCES has not had the benefit of broadband yet specifically, EagleNet
 - Marcia Neal, SBE wants the honest opinion of EagleNet and the challenges so she can advocate for districts
- Dolores School District and BOCES purchased the space the district and BOCES jointly use
 - Superintendent Cooper, Dolores shared the process of acquisition
 - Conversation started 13 years ago – the district wanted to move the administration closer to the students
 - The property was given to them from the forest service since they were moving into a new facility
 - The San Juan BOCES worked hand in hand with the district in handling the legalities of the transfer
 - The facility was built in 1938 by the forest service.
- Integration Project – in partnership with Colorado Legacy Foundation
 - Steve Otter, Facilitator/Coordinator of the project shared their current work
 - Districts within the region got together to find common trends. The common trend... we are all growing
 - Branded work around “Growing Together”
 - Developed a project status board to share the work happening in each district
 - Provides a quick way to see what is going on in the region
 - Both small districts and large districts are contributing to the growth
 - Yes – this is an accountability tool and there are areas that need to improve, however it paints a comprehensive picture of the work being done
- Teacher evaluation
 - Initially very overwhelming
 - Troy Zabel, Superintendent, Bayfield School District shared a pilot program
 - Pilot program SmartForm - everything about evaluation is online and instant
 - First step was to take the rubric and evaluate themselves
 - Using Bloomboard as the tool on tablets
 - Principal’s using technology to evaluate and instantly provide the feedback to the teacher
 - Program allows the teachers to set goals and store examples of their work and growth
 - True evaluation of teachers and their growth
 - Leadership has made an honest effort in connecting with teachers to make this process less intimidating
 - This has taken the mystery out of evaluation which allows for transparency with teachers
 - Driving conversations with the leadership team on expectations for the walk-throughs
 - Turns the evaluation process into more of a peer conversation and engages teachers in the process
 - What is CDE’s process on the roll out of the feedback, tools, etc.? was asked by several council members
- Common Formative Assessment Project
 - Created a website – Southwest Colorado Achievement to access the assessments they created
 - Many are performance based aligned to state standards
 - A creative collaborative effort within the districts
 - Go into the bank and pull questions based on evidence outcome
 - One thing they learned going through the process is that it wasn’t meeting their needs and they were quickly outgrowing it.

- School Vault was developed to create summative and formative assessments
- School Vault – started as a vehicle to get teachers the assessments the districts were using in a much more friendly way.
 - Morphed it into providing a wide variety of options
 - How can we put a tool in the teachers hands that was a one stop shopping for
 - Access to assessments
 - Analyze data
 - Support Systems already in place
 - It is building a new system of how they assess students
 - In terms of curriculum – the goal is to build a framework that any district can use, based on evidence outcomes
 - Curriculum is tied to evidence outcomes – from the evidence outcome you can find the formative assessments for that specific outcome
 - They are building a rating system to increase effectiveness with individual students
 - It contains a color rating system to let teachers know with which standards individual kids are struggling
 - Support resources not only for teachers, but parents as well
- Challenge now is getting teachers involved in the development and rolling this out to more staff members
- Current challenge for the BOCES is sustainability. Currently using the grant from the Legacy Foundation, but that money will run out so San Juan BOCES is looking at local options in partnership with CLF.

Rural Definition

- Has been approved by the Commissioner
- Shared with the chairs and co-chairs of the Joint Education Committee
- The small rural definition is really opening eyes as to the size of rural
- The question was asked of the council does it bother you that so many people in the state are clueless about rural.
 - Most people see through their own experience and most people haven't had any experience with rural
- Challenge now is how to get this in front of people and making them understand what it means to be rural
 - Need to get the "rural face" in front of people.
 - We should look at a goal for the council to develop a communications strategy
- Questions from the field:
 - What was the motivation for defining rural – funding? Consolidation?
 - That wasn't the initial motivation, however people might want to use it for those purposes
 - The push was for a better understanding of rural in Colorado
 - Others have tried to define us (rural) so the drive was to give them the definition first hand as opposed to letting non-rural individuals define us.
 - Drive from within CDE to help with support efforts in the state
 - Largest impact so far has been within CDE. Most of the staff haven't worked in rural districts and this definition helps with a better understanding to direct support efforts
 - Tina Goar shared with the council several additional rural statistics based on the 2011 October 1 Count :
 - 11 districts have less than 100 students
 - 50 districts have less than 250 students
 - 83 districts have less than 500 students

- 105 districts have less than 1000 students
- 43 districts have less than 6500 students, but more than 1000 students
- 21 districts indicated on their HR report that they have 1.92 or less Administrative FTE - there is concern that this number could continue to grow with continuing budget cuts
- 62 districts indicated that they are a one site school district with Pre and/or K-12 in one building or connected buildings

Meeting Schedule:

- April meeting will be in the Northwest at the Garfield School District 16 in Parachute
- December meeting date of December 6 conflicts with the CASB Convention
 - Looking at Wednesday afternoon before the convention as a possibility
 - Concern- some members of the council travel with their board so it would be an additional night for the local boards as well
 - Potentially Saturday morning/early afternoon at CASB – Pikes Peak BOCES would provide the local overview
- Presentation for CASE/CASB? Showcase what is happening in rural districts and schools
 - CDE will work to present the local area overviews at CASE/CASB

Superintendent/Principal in Dual Roles Follow-up

- Where is this all going?
 - Conversations have been had with CASE/CASB
 - CASB would like to help/partner to ease the implementation of this process
- Planning several area focus discussion groups
 - Invite people who are in a dual role in the field to get together and discuss/ share their issues/concerns and see how CDE can support
 - These focus groups will be tagged onto an existing BOCES SAC meeting
 - Currently working on finalizing dates
 - Include Tina Goar, CDE Educator Effectiveness staff, and a council member to be a part of the discussion
- Comments/Concerns:
 - How will dates be announced?
 - Via Educator Effectiveness and the SCOOP
 - Email received from the field- If we are in a dual role serving both hats as principal and superintendent, do we need to look at a new evaluation rubric?
 - As a council can we support this effort in the rural districts
 - Would be a great benefit of the council to help develop and administer supports for rural districts with individuals in the dual role

Rural Education Council Goals for 2013

- See attached
- Next step is to sit down with Keith and Commissioner Hammond to discuss the goals and why we as a council feel these are the right areas of focus for this group.
- Agenda item for the next meeting – CDE training/workshop sites. Have the council help develop a road map for CDE to help determine training sites which meet the needs of the rural districts
- The council is requesting the Commissioner to provide feedback and help direct the council on what he believes they need to be working on

Next Meeting

Friday, April 26, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00pm in Garfield School District 16 in Parachute, CO