

Notes from the BLT meeting today:

- Intros
- Review of BLT purpose, duties and responsibilities
- Homework policy changes:
 - Based on widespread conclusive research findings: elementary school homework does not drive student achievement
 - Most important learning happens in the classroom
 - Parent comments/concerns/requests with this change:
 - Robust homework provides parent visibility into the classroom curriculum ... concern that parents will now have less visibility
 - And what about English writing – seems like the students aren't doing enough writing...particularly worrisome because of language immersion program (the students spend half their day focused on another language)
 - How can we be sure that all subjects are being adequately covered in the classroom? And is there consistency across teachers?
 - Please give parents supplemental curriculum suggestions for home
 - Will be important to provide context when rolling out this change to the parent community: Why the change? What was the process to get there? Is this district wide or specific to JSIS?
 - Now that homework will be very limited, the quality of the homework will be particularly important – please be thoughtful, make it count, no busy work
 - Can we possibly call this a pilot year ...see how it goes before permanently committing to this change
 - Widespread concern about lack of writing curriculum – can in-class writing curriculum tweaks be made?
 - Principal Dedy's responses:
 - With less homework to review, teachers will be freed up to spend more time collaborating with each other.
 - We will consider supplemental curriculum suggestions for parents for home. But know this may create an equity issue for some families.
 - If all subjects aren't adequately being covered in the classroom, parents should share their concern with their teacher first. If it still isn't being addressed, then escalate to Principal Dedy.
 - We (the teachers) will commit to providing maximum visibility into the classroom curriculum via the existing teacher-parent comms
 - We (the staff) will review these concerns and commit to problem solving and addressing
- Smarter Balance:
 - This was a baseline year
 - Student performance was good overall
 - Results will be out soon, they will be sent home with students