School for Today
Learning and Implementing the Concepts
January 9, 2016

Concepts from The Collaborative Report = *the concepts*

What Has Already Happened

1/5/14 - 1/4/16:

- Shared the ["School for Today"](#) report with all prek-12th grade staff, Key Communicators, Strategic Planning Committee, and in other local and national venues
- A district "Innovation Leadership Team" meets regularly in support of implementing ***the concepts*** in the classroom
- Hosted an Experiential Learning Camp/Course which resulted in teachers designing an experiential learning opportunity for their students
- Supporting varying levels of implementation of ***the concepts*** in classrooms across the district including [near full implementation in one classroom at Hudson](#)
- Collaborating with Dr. Carol Williams from Webster University to design and implement a college course in which university students learn about democratic education by supporting its implementation at Hudson
- Collaborating with Dr. Carol Williams from Webster University to conduct and ultimately publish qualitative research on the effects of democratic processes on student learning
- Collaborating with Dr. Stephanie Mahfood from Webster University on a one of two Boeing Grants which would support implementation of ***the concepts*** at Steger and/or The Computer School.
- Publish and present research on *the concepts* and the process used titled, ["Using Social Media and Video Conferencing to Extend Design-Based Research for Conceptualizing Learning in the School for Today"](#)
- A team comprised of students, staff, and community is currently working on a competitive high school grant application that has democracy as its central concept
- Lauren Forsythe and Deanna Sheehan, teachers at the WAFC, are leading an iDEA long term learning opportunity focused on the concept, "responsive spaces"
- Don Eckert and Melissa Hellwig, teachers at Hixson, are leading an iDEA long term learning opportunity focused on the concept, "democracy," as implemented through 20% Time Projects
- Meeting with a group of district staff, Webster University staff, local business owners, members of city government, and others in support of developing a network for district and university students to provide valuable services for businesses while learning from their experiences.
- The high school offers a self-directed learning class in which the students determine the content and design of their own learning (ie: luminary project on Lockwood Ave in December)
- Working with Dr. Carol Williams, Dr. Basiyr Rodney, and others to develop and offer a professional learning opportunity for all staff during the 16-17 school year with a dual focus on implementing ***the concepts*** and conducting qualitative research

- The classroom at Hudson was featured on [Channel 4 news](#) and has been visited by other local school districts
- School teams from Avery and Hudson visited EPiC Elementary in the Liberty School District
- The teachers currently implementing **the concepts** at Hudson shared their implementation in year one, and along with John Simpson helped attendees start to envision how implementation might look in their rooms
- Dr. Julie Wuch, principal at Edgar Road, lead 2 workshops on project-based learning which supports "democracy" in the classroom

Plans For The Future

1/6/16 - 2/5/16:

- Work with the Computer School staff to develop a timeline for full implementation of *the concepts*

4/1/16

- Through a decrease in existing coordinator FTE, hire a part-time person or persons to support implementation of the concepts across the district in 16-17 including at the Computer School

6/6/16 - 6/10/16:

- Host a summer institute for prek-12th grade staff titled, "Deconstructing Democracy"

6/1/16 - 8/1/16

- Provide a learning opportunity for administrators to deepen their understanding of the concepts and how to support implementation in schools

8/14/16:

- Initiate gradual implementation of *the concepts* at The Computer School
- Support implementation of *the concepts* in both 5th grade classrooms at Hudson
- Initiate the professional learning opportunity (democracy and qualitative research) designed and implemented with staff from Webster University
- Initiate short/long term learning opportunities led by staff based on *the concepts*
- Continue to support implementation of *the concepts* across the entire school district

8/1/16 - 10/01/16

- Provide a report to the Board of Education which includes but is not limited to:
  - ○ Progress taking place at The Computer School
  - ○ Summary of the "Deconstructing Democracy" summer institute
  - ○ Results from Dr. Williams' research from Hudson