

Superintendent Debrief – July 7, 2020

What are some of the emerging themes? What areas do we need to focus on?

1. Mental health
 2. Building relationships needs to be our first priority as we begin the school year
 3. Student voice
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1. Focus on personalized learning (Zoom meetings with individual students?)
 2. Parent engagement
 3. Renewed/strengthened focus on equity
 4. Increasing racial consciousness
 5. Managing new levels of trauma for our students
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1. Assessment – competency-based, What assessments make sense? Where does standardized testing fit in?
 2. Clarifying role of school board member – helping them on their equity journey
 3. Additional professional development
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1. Keeping current high energy & engagement alive to incorporate real changes
 2. Support peers in leadership and school boards to do the right thing for students
 3. Actionable items that lead to change
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1. Need to support school board with policy decisions that address racial equity
 2. Personalized programming, clear learning targets, authentic feedback for students
 3. Professional development needed for both staff and school boards

Thinking in terms of actionable steps, what needs to happen in your district to reopen this fall to meet the needs of each and every student?

We need to go back to what really engages our students.

Support school board with anti-racist policies.

Use staff (i.e. paraprofessionals) in new ways.

Use lens of “Are all children learning?”

Be nimble!

With professional development, try to develop a mindset.

Intentional planning for outreach to students and families.

We need better understanding of the metrics/thresholds used for moving between different models (# of cases? Statewide? Countywide? Per district? Per building?).

How do we ensure equity as we reopen?

How are people behaving differently as a result of these last few months?

Need to consider the financial impacts – hold harmless? – impacts have included technology, food services, fee-based services.

Focus less on logistics than instructional practices.

Agility and nimbleness are necessary.

Professional Development:

- Establishment of relationships between students and staff (social emotional) regarding pandemic and racism in this country
- Professional development (hungrier than ever to receive PD in the area of racial equity).
Difference between saving and liberation.

Student Support and Family Engagement:

- Congruence between models so that students and families can stay engaged if we have to go back and forth.
- We are engaging multiple perspectives in the development of our responses to each scenario
- Childcare issues...connected to hybrid and distance learning models (not every family situation is conducive to the childcare or distance learning model.)
- Prioritizing standards so that we can have some academic balance if we stay online.

Communication:

- Engaging communication so that we can help students, families and staff know what is going on. (Families have been engaged in a different way since distance learning)

How can Reimagine Minnesota and AMSD support school board members and superintendents?

Are there common models among districts that can be shared?

Continue to bring this group together to share ideas and concerns.

Advocate for increased clarity.

Create repository of member district's equity statements, equity policies, etc. for school board members and administrators to access.