

Round Table Questions

1. What is the procedure for deciding on a date and time for an announced observations? There seems to be inconsistency among supervisors/administrators - some work out the time collaboratively with the teacher, while others tell the teacher when they are coming in. When it is not figured out collaboratively, it can be a challenge for teachers who co-teach or teach very different classes from one period to the next.

This will topic will be discussed and normed this summer with the administrative team to ensure consistency of practice. The Admin will also take a uniform position regarding how announced observations are to be scheduled. Collaborative scheduling has certain benefits, but the administration may need to reserve the right to unilaterally choose and announce which lesson they observe.

2. Elementary school conferences - revisiting a previous topic, the report card narrative comments, based on the timing of the end of marking periods, end up being very similar to what is said at parent teacher conferences. Can the times when these events occur be shifted around to solve this problem? Also on this topic, some elementary teachers are unable to fit in all their conferences to the two days that are allotted. Would it be possible to go to three half days for the elementary school conferences?

Teachers will be invited to participate in a committee on this topic in the near future as we redesign our report card and parent conference structure. Adding another day has contract implications that should be discussed between the superintendent and MEA leadership.

3. Follow up to a previous topic - did the admin team meet to discuss email guidelines for parents in terms of the frequency they are reaching out to teachers?

In order to more clearly define this concern, teachers experiencing such difficulties should speak to their Principal and provide details regarding the frequency and types of concerns that are driving this question. Please give specifics to your building principal.

4. When will open enrollment be occurring for our health insurance?

Per Joe Vespignani:

There will be Medical and Dental renewals in July, and open enrollment typically takes place in April or May. Any change requests will be effective for July 1st. I am working with Centric to set a few dates to conduct Open Enrollment meetings for staff. They will be sending me a flyer for staff regarding Open Enrollment, once we set those dates. They will also create a Benefits Portal with Open Enrollment information.

5. After we spent almost \$400,000 on camera security, why are we allowing students to wear hoods when major law enforcement groups and organizations have stated that identifying suspects in criminal or bullying actions are extremely difficult when a person is wearing a hood? It seems counterproductive to our security protocols.

Hoods should not be worn - hiding ears standard seems to be taken too literally. Superintendent will be speaking to principals.