

Professional Development

October 27, 2008

Discussion Rules

- Not about state or federal tests
- Not about competition of other schools, states or countries.
- No excuses for what we do.

World-Class Education

- Define at your table:
- Is students are successful in college and work after school.
- Successful problem solving schools
- Create motivated students
- More technology and resources
- Lots of hands on learning

Cont.

- Elementary literacy
- Technology – collaboration with schools around the world (exposing students to other cultures)
- Students are goal oriented
- Technology
- Parents that are supportive of the educational process

- High level of technology and skills
- Be able to join the workforce
- Exposure to languages
- High level of literacy
- Life skills!
- Continuing education
- Creative thinking skills

World Class Education

- The American Heritage® Dictionary
 - world-class (*adj.*) Ranking among the foremost in the world; of an international standard of excellence; of the highest order:
 - *a world-class figure skater.* world-class (*adj.*) Great, as in importance, concern, or notoriety.

Des Moines Sunday Register

- High school math teacher Lynn Selking
- High school biology teacher Lynn Countryman
- College Spanish instructor Julie Wilhelm
- ISU President Greg Geoffroy
- Central College President David Roe

What kind of education do people need to successfully live in today's world or tomorrow's?

- Financial literacy
- Parental skills
- Problem solving
- Communication skills (verbally and written)
- Technology skills
- Life skills, job skills, study skills
- Time management

- Ability to change, coping skills, flexibility
- Willingness to learn
- Creative thinking, encouraging HOTS
- Students become contributing members of society
- Advanced PE -

Their answers in summary

- Selking: “all of us need to learn to be learners. I have had to re-learn mathematics since I have been teaching.
- Critical thinking - learn to think
- Consumer math
- Lynn Countryman: “structure your school around project-based learning”...”your going to team science, social studies, math and world languages together.”

World...cont...

- “Communicating and collaborating is the key to surviving in a global economy.”
- Wilhelm: “study of language. It doesn’t really matter which language.”
- Geoffroy: “I think it means students who graduate from high school are exceptionally well-prepared to achieve a high level of success in life and in their professions.”
“Communication skills.”

World...cont...

- Roe: “biological literacy.” “learning to learn” “technological literacy.”

Do you think every community in Iowa should provide a world-class education? Is it happening now? Are we slipping or are we still the best?

- Yes, Yes, Slipping? No, but families are.
- How do we know we are slipping?
- Fractured families...students do not have time with their parents!
- We have to spend too much time teaching compassion.
- Too many state requirements on teaching

Their answers in summary

- Geoffroy: “Good to very good...due to the great values and work ethic that the young people have.” “Is it world class, no.” “there seems to be a complacency that we are.”
- Roe: “The core curriculum is a good step forward. We need to expect more, and kids will rise to it. Oh, my son doesn’t like math and shouldn’t have to take it...” “I’m sorry, you’re short changing your son or daughter.”

What would you tell the parents of a 6-year-old that they ought to make sure that they get for their child, even if you have to do some outside work?

- Quality family time...work ethics...high expectations for themselves
- Teaching values, right and wrong, let the children learn for themselves.
- Responsibility...don't give money for grades!
- Family reading time with discussion...modeling the reading process

- Tie their shoes, fork and spoon. Knowing bathroom skills
- Being responsible parents!
- Educating parents!
- Limits on TV, computers, cell, and video games

Their answers...

- Countryman: “demand foreign language...should ensure that they’re getting the science.”
- Geoffroy: “The parents should set high expectations for the student’s expectations for the student’s achievement...Then provide all of the parental support that you can.”

What would you recommend schools do to start moving toward being a world-class school system?

- Fail more students to make them apply themselves.
- Throwing out students who are continually behavioral problems
- Provide parent education classes
- Encourage communication between home and school
- Parent consequences

Moving to world class...

Their answers in summary

- Selking: I would put my pots of money in helping teachers improve their mathematics and then their pedagogy.
- Countryman: Improve the teachers. We know that the highest achievement is going on with the best teachers.
- Wilhelm: Professional development.

Moving to world class...

Their answers in summary

- Geoffroy: Set high expectations. Really, really start work toward a culture of high expectations and finding ways to communicate that throughout the schools....
- Roe: We have too many school districts...too much administration. Look at reengineering yourselves...

World-Class Schools

- http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/section?Category=OPINION&theme=world_class_schools_for_iowa&temp_late=theme