Strategic + Planning + Session = Success

NCSM 2019
San Diego
Engaging Leadership Communities
K-5
“We have to find a way to share this with the entire campus, not just the teachers present.”
~Ms. Faubion, Pampa, Tx

“Every school district should go through this process.”
~ Mrs. Hunter, Arlington, Tx

“Having a plan and a vision that is focused on our student needs, not one that is given to us from outsiders, makes much more sense.”
~Ms. Lance, Pampa, Tx
Strategic Planning Session = Success

Session Purpose

• Experience a *Strategic Planning Session* that will guide your school/district in developing a vision for mathematics instruction and a process for creating an action plan to move toward that vision
Four Principles for Adult Learning

• Adults need to be involved in the planning and evaluation of their instruction.
• Experience (including mistakes) provides the basis for learning activities.
• Adults are most interested in learning subjects that have immediate relevance to their job or personal life.
• Adult learning is problem-centered rather than content-oriented. (Kearsley, 2010)

~Malcolm Knowles
Setting direction accounts for the largest proportion of a leaders’ impact.

Louis, K.S. “Learning from Leadership: Investigating Links to Improved Student Learning” 2010
Overview

Who: Principals, Coaches and Teachers

What: 3 Strategic Planning Sessions - each with a different objective designed to facilitate a campus’ learning pathway for change

When: Meet 3 times each year to encourage an ongoing process of continuous improvement

Where: At the campus level
Step 1: Setting a Vision
What is a Vision Statement?

• A picture of future math learning environments
• A dream for desired change based on the work within the district/campus
• Clear and inspirational
• Concise
• Not a road map of how to get there
Step 1: Setting a Vision

What do you believe should be in every classroom every day to support students’ mathematics learning?

• Individually brainstorm: In an effective math classroom…
  – How is the physical environment arranged?
  – What is the teacher doing? Students?
  – How will students be engaged cognitively in learning math standards?
  – What is the evidence of student learning?
Step 1: Setting a Vision

What do you believe should be in every classroom every day to support students’ mathematics learning?

• Cluster practices into themes and categories

• List the top three practices on your poster paper
Step 1: Setting a Vision

• Creating a campus vision
  – Gather with other groups to refine the list
  – As each group shares, place a check mark by the characteristic if it is listed on your chart as well
  – Create a master list containing all agreed to items (suggestion is three practices)

• How does this vision support your state math standards and expectations set forth by the teacher evaluation standards?
Example Vision Statements

Every day, students will be engaged in rich math tasks that allow them to develop understanding of mathematical content through mathematical practices.

In our district, math instruction inspires all learners to communicate their learning as a confident, curious and flexible problem solver.
Step 1: Setting a Vision

• Work as a table group to craft a vision statement using the identified practices from your campus.
Step 2: How will we get there?

• As you reflect on a typical math classroom in your school, what does math instruction look like?
  – How is the physical environment arranged?
  – What is the teacher doing? Students?
  – How will students be engaged cognitively in learning math standards?
  – What is the evidence of student learning?
Step 2: Create an Action Plan

• Choose 1 focus area for this school year
  – Remember: Your vision is a multi-year process to reach your desired outcome

• Choose 1-3 actions to take to strengthen the focus area.
  – What will be happening inside the classroom (by teachers and students)?
  – What will be happening outside the classroom (by teachers and instructional leaders)
Step 2: Create an Action Plan

- Make action steps SMART; specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and timely
- No more than three action steps
- Utilize collaboration structures to empower staff to own the vision
  - Math Content Learning Teams
  - Mathematics Vertical Learning Teams
  - Shared Classroom Experiences
  - Instructional Coaching Cycles
Step 3: Implementation

• Schedule dates on the calendar for the school year.

• Envision Success
Strategic Planning Sessions
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• Strategic Planning Session 2: Assessing Impact and Addressing Challenges
  – Middle of the Year

• Strategic Planning Session 3: Acknowledging Progress and Planning for Continuous Improvement
  – End of the Year
Closing Thoughts
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• Often instructional leaders work in isolation or in hierarchical groups.
  – Principals attend weekly district meetings with district level administrators.
  – Teachers attend weekly team meetings lead by a math coach or teacher leader.
  – The principal conducts monthly staff meetings.

• How does the structure of Strategic Planning Sessions compare with these meetings?
Share Your Feedback

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