

School-wide AEC Meeting 6-5-08

What is Cowan?

Cafeteria Food: not nutritious, standard from district

Features

diverse,
small,
great community of children
innovative,
specialized,
achievement gap focus,
magnet center,
multi-community,
stratified socioeconomic community,
high performing can do better,
High API scores overall and sub-categories, similar scores and overall growth in API
Class size ratio 20:1 in K-2nd grade, not unique for school, District level decision
Student input

Discipline

high tardy record
high suspension rate
do not have one school-wide behavior plan
uniform policy participation rate: decreases with increase in grade level
strong attendance record

Parent Involvement

strong, outgoing parent population,
innovative

Communication

School that wants better communication

Funding

Some schools use some of their funding to keep their class size down
creative in meeting financial needs,
strong fundraising,

Various Funding from district: school improvement, library, bilingual funds and other categorical funds

Curriculum

No foreign language but International Focus Magnet coming in

Technology Curriculum: needs to be more concise and practical, school wide plan is not available, implemented in some classroom, safety and guidelines regulated school-wide? Traditional, standard, LAUSD curriculum, Science Curriculum but limited science curriculum implementation.

Enrichment Programs

Variety of enrichment programs,
Strong Arts program including: music, drama, dance, fine arts
Lack of sports programs
Cowan Nature Center
after-school programs

Gifted Education

Partial clustering for Gifted – 3rd grade cluster class, not consistent in 4th and 5th grade with some success.

Not a very purposeful GATE Program: lacks innovation
Pull out programs compensate for GATE program in classroom

Differentiated Instruction

Continuity of Special Day Class
strong special education,

Faculty Staff Related topics

Varied levels of classroom management skills
Teacher mentoring available
Tier Two Intervention Program
Some professional development was purposeful such as Renzulli which is geared to differentiation of instruction
Teacher driven, student- driven professional development
Current state of professional development: not purposeful
Psychomotor helps provide planning time which is included in professional development
on average we have more experienced teachers, credentialed, tenured
low turnover rate

Goals

- Create categories of features
- Prioritize
- Set goals of what we are looking for
- Decide criteria of choosing school to visit
- Research schools
- Designate roles: more than one person with same role
- Determine ways in which to solicit student input

Meeting Frequency:

Once a week: Thursday

What is the best time to meet: 3-5 pm

Amount of time for meetings: 40 minutes- 2 hours

Next meeting time: