

Hi Mr. Dusek,

I appreciated the opportunity to attend the conference in February. I apologize for not sending this summary to you sooner. It was my mistaken believe that I send this in at the end of the school year when funds to cover the remaining costs are divided amongst attendees.

Highlights of major sessions attended

Thursday February 14th

Attended Sustainable principal pipelines: Learned about principal mentorships programs that recruit qualified teachers and train them using a cohort model. Strong statistical success but the areas studied were on the east coast but not comparable to KPBSD

The Best of the Best: received a list of resources that are free and widely used by teachers as resources. There was very little evidence of vetting the resources.

Attended a session entitled Myths about Standardized Testing and Their relationship to School and Teacher Assessment. Brief discussion on how test scores are used to measure nothing more than demographics and how their publicity is detrimental to schools reputations.

Rural Consolidation: This session was billed as a guide to rural consolidation, but it was more about the district level consolidation and less about the intradistrict level. The discussion focused on the various states that had enacted consolidation methods and their associated benefits. The panel members concluded that the consolidation was not viable as a resource saving measure because there was no savings in administration, and that often partially filled schools needed to remain open in order to serve remote communities. Overall that data was weak and anecdotal consisting of a single view point.

General Session with Susan Rice. This session contained what I would consider to be political discussion on education on a national scale. I did not specifically note much locally applicable content. The discussion including AASA president yielded mostly general themes.

Friday February 15th

Disrupting Poverty a Moral Imperative: Discussion on the perceived increase in student poverty. The discussion focused mostly on how much poverty influences the education generally. This session hosted a discussion of social support that included poverty school climate.

Legal issues related to student discipline: This session presented statistics about disproportionate student discipline. It focused on mostly urban African American disparities in disciplinary consequences and appeared to mirror legal prejudices. An attorney presented case studies of schools that successfully mitigated the disparity, these included education and administrator training of bias and awareness, the audience was skeptical.

Leadership through systems transportation. This session focused on winning people to the district's side. The thrust was on positive PR, publicizing positive stories, and capitalizing on emotionality of politicians and constituents.

The best presentation of the conference was presented by David Berliner. He spoke at length discussing test scores as a proxy for community wealth. He had supporting documentation that showed the biggest

indicators of student performance was external to the school. He said something like, "the number of libraries, percent of single households, and enrollment in pre K, are more predictive of academic success than test scores" and he had the stats to prove it. I spoke with him at length after his presentation and he sent me his lecture and supporting presentation with stats. I forwarded them on to John O and we briefly discussed it as well.

Please let me know if there is more you would like to discuss with me about this.

Sincerely,



Austin Stevenson



5-29-19