

Career Development 2016-17
2017 ASTE Conference
Solution Tree
18-22 February 2017
Anchorage, AK
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This year I was able to use my career development grant to attend the ASTE Conference. This conference had high appeal for me because HMS has embraced the blended learning model and most teachers use CANVAS for the student portal platform. In addition, I also use CANVAS to present professional development activities at Homer Middle School. I was hopeful attending specific workshops at ASTE would build on the knowledge I received at the INACOL Conference from the last school year, as well as to provide additional resources for my membership as we continue with the KPBSD Innovation Committee. My attendance also supported the HMS Professional Development Goal.

I selected several workshops over the four-day period. Most of the workshops focused on the use and implementation of personalized learning at the site and district level; however, I also attended classroom focused sessions which I attended with Jen Booz, HMS Science teacher. Upon reflection of the conference, I felt the classroom focused sessions provided the best immediate implementation for me as an administrator in my school.

The first session I attended was an all-day Leadership Summit. During this session, I sat with KPBSD administrators and learned more about the future focus of our district. Several ideas were brought forth by the presenter, and the ability to discuss the feasibility of implementation from the decision makers of the district was beneficial. It also helped me provide a focus for the remainder of the conference as well as to adjust future sessions to meet my needs.

In the Leadership Summit, the facilitator presented ideas to assist administrators to rethink the school mission and vision statement. The following resonated with me as an administrator:

- 1.) Do the questions you ask in the hiring process reflect the beliefs of the school?
- 2.) If you believe in something, tell me where it lives in your schedule.
- 3.) The master schedule is the king and it says a lot about the individual school philosophy.
- 4.) Continue to broaden and promote capacity in the community.

The sessions I attended with Jen Booz included: Intentionality in Blending, Break Out of the Blended Learning Classroom, and Turning Teacher Tools into Student Creation Tools. Attending these sessions allowed us to plan additional

professional development activities for the HMS staff as well as to discuss what I as an administrator can do to assist the district in its' quest to implement the Personalized Learning Philosophy as presented by Educational Elements. The immediate action plan as a result of my attendance of this conference includes providing resources for teachers, samples for CANVAS templates as well as interdisciplinary unit plans. We also met colleagues who are interested in further networking and collaboration as we plan for the 2017-18 school year.

Attending the 2017 ASTE Conference was timely and provided both direction and motivation to provide leadership to the Homer Middle School Staff. I am looking forward to completing this school year and planning for the 2017-18 school year. As we move forward with some uncertainty in the education funding process, I have more tools in my toolbox to ensure we are able to offer the best education to our students even if it may look a little different in the presentation than a traditional 7 period day in a brick and mortal school.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean Dush".

3-27-17