



Notes from Small School Heads Discussion: May 27 and June 3, 2020

May 27:

Question: what kind of PD would you like?

- How do you use digital when it is not an emergency approach?
- Maybe continue these weekly webinars over the summer, but every two weeks/ so helpful.
- Need legal advice. Contracts, etc. Amy will follow up
- COST help: for outfittings school to open safely, bulk ordering, PPE, grants? Online subscriptions?
- What is the biggest need?- everything...
- Academic testing- formative assessment- especially at start of year
- What kinds of assessment can we try now?
- Concerns about paying for PD- some were too expensive before covid...
- Training the trainers!
- Trauma training- urgent for staff to have healthy mindset themselves
- Onboarding new staff
- Better development, fundraising for small schools in this climate- need sentences, not dynamic schools generic clip. VALUE added wording.

Question: Do Teachers have the bandwidth to learn this summer?

- Depends on the topic
- Need a break first
- Right now they are so busy it is hard to know what they want
- Optional helps
- Self differentiation is crucial- novice tech vs. I know this, but...
- National peer to peer outreach to create groups who can work together?
- Staff needs a break, start in July or August
- Teachers volunteered to be on a mental health task force this summer

Question from the field: what can we, as leaders in the field, do to change things that are broken in the system- rethink report cards, grades, SEL, salaries, how do we leverage this opportunity? Not just return to normal?

Question: Did some small schools get more interest from families lately? YES! Because of the amazing transition and work online and personal connections.

Question: what is happening with the EC/ preschools? Some are closing.

June 3:

Deborah Grayson Reigel presented on looking at situations from a new perspective; How do you take the whole and break it up into parts to make it more manageable; what can you handle now and what has to take a back seat? What can be seen as doable?

Question: how do you get parents' trust?

- Health reopening task force of parents- transparent, example of how process is important
- Town hall/ state of the school for parents
- Communication is key
- Make sure the people who advise you are well respected in the community
- Annual school climate survey- continuously soliciting feedback and getting ideas
- This week with black lives matter- a HOS reached out to the one black family at their school and found it was so powerful- do not assume people are reaching out. Led to a letter to the school and an invitation for coffee and discussion with parents and HOS
- Giving circle event for donors

Question: what are you doing in terms of camp being cancelled, if anything?

- Being sensitive to the disappointment
- Offer virtual camp for 6 one week sessions, 4 days a week, 1 hour a day. Teachers get paid extra
- Great for PR and marketing and recruitment
- Must not compete with local JCCs offering other online or in person options
- Summer in a box option for 2 weeks
- Learning from those who will open to plan our openings

Question: Is anyone starting school earlier than planned?

- Yes, many are-- especially for EC