

# NICHOLAS J. BEGICH MIDDLE SCHOOL, 2009

## Who Are We?

- Largest/most diverse middle school in AK
- 1200+ students grades 6-8, 100+ staff
- Many students/staff moving to new school
- The community center for the Muldoon area
- About 185 Special Ed, and over 200 ELL
- 2/3 students are on free and reduced lunch
- 52% of staff have an advanced degree



## What is your inquiry question?

How do we provide time for staff to share their experiences with others for the purpose of improving students achievement and building collegiality?

Our inquiry question supports our school goals to build collaborative leadership, learning communities, and curriculum and instruction that is rigorous and data-based.

## What is your process?

- Discussed overview of AEIN and how it could benefit our school
- Attended the fall symposium in Sitka
- Liaison team went over logic model/plan
- Staff survey on professional development
- Compiled data from surveys
- Teachers applied for release time
- Created focus test group to implement plan
- Evaluate the process and determine next steps

## How has your logic model worked?

- The logic model is a “work in progress”
- After Sitka symposium, we created survey, gave to team reps to complete in October. Took time to compile the data.
- 60% of staff completed survey, 66% of those indicated were willing to lead a group. Survey highlighted areas teachers could target and narrowed focus to areas we can control.
- Teachers could apply for release time. A small number took advantage of this.
- For further study, we took volunteers for a small guided focus group to determine the best way to proceed. We are currently working on completing this task.

## How do you know?

- The group that used release time found it very beneficial. They shared best practices with others using the school server.
- Special education teachers planning to use release time before the end of the year also.
- Science teachers interested in using the time to coordinate lessons between grade levels.
- Music teachers mentioned using time to visit other schools.
- Foreign language teachers expressed interest.
- Group of multidisciplinary teachers working together to create a blocking schedule.
- We have spreadsheet showing staff strengths and who's willing to demonstrate for others.
- We have staff that are willing to participate in the test focus group.

What impact did engagement in a network have on your school improvement efforts?

- Members attended Sitka symposium and fall principal's retreat. Involvement helped us realize we are in the first stages of using data.
- Sitka schools shared spreadsheet idea.
- The AEIN National Staff Development Survey evaluated professional development, corroborated needs in the inquiry question.

Describe how the roles and responsibilities of leadership have become visible:

in your direct work at your school?

- Book groups in 2007-08 built collegiality and gave opportunities for teachers to network.
- Teacher experts share with others.
- Survey identified teachers as experts in areas not previously known.
- Technology leaders helped to get tasks done.

across the AEIN Network?

- AEIN network has not been utilized fully.
- The network has helped others to step up and share ideas.
- Staff have been part of Reading Apprenticeship, sharing with the school.
- Sitka symposium helpful for learning new strategies/tools shared at our school.

