

Principal Peer Groups

This program places principals in groups of three to five principals with varying degrees of experience. They meet four times a year for a guided discussion on an aspect of leading a school. In addition, all the principals gather two times a year for a topic and discussion time focused on issues in school administration.

Principal's Toolbox

This resource is a compilation of sample school administrative policies to aid in school development. Contact the administrator for access to this online folder.

Future Plans

We thank the school boards and teachers for their support and participation in these programs. We welcome your feedback and suggestions as we continue to move forward. Feel free to contact any one of us with general comments. If you wish for specific information about enrolling new hires or your teachers, contact the program administrator.

Committee:

Chairman: Arlin Fox (717) 371-3803

Vice Chairman: Michael Zimmerman
(717) 278-1977

Secretary: Neil Weaver (717) 475-5394

Member: Kerry High (717) 202-7042

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(717) 466-8553

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Funding

Funds to support these programs flow through the Weaverland Mennonite Schools and are mostly used to reimburse experienced teachers for apprenticing new hires and working with their junior partner.

Those interested in supporting these programs can send contributions to Weaverland Mennonite Schools earmarked Teacher Development.

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Teacher Development Committee

Of the Weaverland Mennonite Schools

Background

In the fall of 2021, the parent board of the Weaverland Mennonite Schools established a Teacher Development Committee. This committee would coordinate efforts already begun and administer new efforts at better preparing and supporting new teachers and principals. With the rapid growth of the Weaverland Schools, it was felt that new principals and teachers were sometimes not receiving the camaraderie and support from other teachers that previously had happened. In the early decades of the Weaverland Mennonite Schools, new schools were often “branches” off an existing school. More recently, however, new schools are being planted in new communities where there is less familiarity with our system. We are grateful to God for this growth, yet it presents a new challenge as the number of teachers and principals has rapidly increased.

Current Programs

The Committee is working on two basic areas. First, how can we better prepare and support teachers in their first few years of teaching? Second, how can we guide principals, especially new principals, in fulfilling their principal responsibilities? The Committee is currently administering the following four programs.

Academic Week

Four days of classes are held at one of the schools at the end of July / beginning of August. The classes are taught at 8th or 9th grade levels to help new teachers brush up on academics and experience teaching techniques. The classes include math, English, music, history, science, Bible, literature, public speaking, and art. The instructors are experienced teachers usually from the Weaverland Mennonite Schools.

Teacher Partner Program

This program matches less experienced teachers with more experienced teachers who have taught at their grade level. While school boards and principals are to remain primary sources of advice, we recognize that an experienced teacher who taught at a particular grade level has another valuable perspective to add. This program functions throughout the school term.

Teacher Apprenticing

This program matches new hires for the upcoming term with an experienced teacher for a week of classroom observation, practice teaching, and feedback. Apprenticing gives new hires some hands-on experience, usually in a school different from where they attended and from where they will be teaching. Apprenticing takes place during March and April. Board chairmen are responsible to contact the program administrator with the names of new hires.