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Board Report

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We continue the effort to improve both school and district leadership throughout the year. As I have shared previously, the opportunity to link with KDE consultants is making a difference in delivery practices. Building capacity within a district allows for a seamless transition when leaders change. This effort should always be present and supported since the future can sometimes hold changes that appear with little notice. Gallatin is building capacity within the leadership team.

The Kentucky Department of Education partnered with the National Institute for School Leadership (NISL) in 2013 to train educators throughout the state. Much of the training was intended for principals since principals are essential to having a high-quality school. District leadership was also included within the plan. According to John Maxwell, “Everything rises and falls on leadership”. I believe that to be a true statement and feel confident you have observed it in Gallatin County over the years.

We currently have 4 administrators in the NISL training with the perspective current practices as well as those in the future will be improved as a result of their involvement in the training. They also bring aspects of the training to district meetings to share with the group. Ms. Biddle is attending training in Northern Kentucky and will be reaching completion in by summer. Mr. Jury attends a different cohort in Bowling Green while Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Carroll are attending a cohort group in Lexington. Staff attended different trainings due to the availability of spots. We took advantage of the opportunity for free training. The value of the training is priced at $4,600. per person and is free if the person completes all sessions. This will be the final year for the free opportunity from KDE. I expect the opportunity to continue but the cost will be shifted to individual districts. Our 4 participants are worthy of commendations for their commitment to professional growth.

I first experienced NISL while working in Breathitt County during the 2013 school year. The impact was impressive with the first person to attend from the district. He shared the promotional practices with district staff. Positive changes began to occur and will happen as a result of these administrator’s involvement. According to information shared by KDE, the trainings include training in the following:

* training in standards-based instructional systems aligned by KDE and NISL staff,
* training in data analysis skills related to student achievement data,
* capacity to take learning theory into practice, by providing skills and knowledge to enable principals to be instructional leaders in literacy, math, and science in their own schools
* training principals in distributed leadership strategies that will assist in developing the professional capacity of school staff.

*“Maximizing Student Learning and Achievement”*