

Frontier Central School Community Vision Committee

Frontier Educational Center, Board Room

February 22, 2016 - 6:30 PM

Key thoughts and critical reflections from stakeholder groups/ committee members...

1. What are the key skills and/or knowledge that Frontier kids need to possess in order to be successful?

- Hard work and determination/grit. Ability to plan long-range and stick with it
- Realistic to self - appraisal - not everyone is cut out to be a brain surgeon!
- Parental support, possibly some understanding of what the student needs to be successful; allowing child to fail and learn from those failures, not always fix things for their child
- Masters of English Language (literature)
- Desire to learn
- Ability to work in team environment
- Help re-find those answers - who to seek - research skills
- Critical thinking skills
- Intellectual openness
- Grit
- Alignment between grade school + college core departments...
- Competence + comprehension for students
- Accountable administration in grade school + higher education
- Open up communication avenues between school administration and educators
- Focus on the core academic subjects
- Competency
- Humility
- Critical thinking and creative problem-solving
- That they need to ensure they are taking challenging courses

- Critical thinking is fundamental
- Intellectual openness
- Inquisitive
- Analysis
- Reasoning, argumentation, proof
- Interpretation
- Problem-solving
- Academic skills: writing; research
- Critical thinking
- Perseverance
- Self-directed study/work skills
- Realistic view of self and abilities
- We need a more developed district vision that pushes students, challenges them , and teachers are supported to hold students accountable
- At this point, the workload is not appropriate nor is the quality being demanded on par with a successful transition to college
- Critical thinking - not just as college prep, but as life skills
- Awareness of self, strengths and weaknesses, and community
- HR
- Values
- Vision
- Complicated - no right answer
- Varied development
- More than just the subjects - important to teach living skills/dealing with non-academic part of college
- Writing & research - I can attest to this core importance
- Writing skills
- Self-monitoring
- Ability to argue/prove a position
- Algebra knowledge

- Community service (non-cognitive)
- All the Conley 2007 research re cognitive skills, academic behaviors, contextual skills and awareness!
- Ability to write and research
- Self-awareness
- Self-monitoring
- Self-control
- Leadership skills
- Ability to communicate effectively, both in writing and verbally
- Knowledge and total understanding of personal finances (balancing checkbook, handling credit cards, student loans, etc.)
- Ability to be a critical thinker
- Skills to interpret results/factual data
- Display ability to use facts and evidence to support arguments/opinions

2. Key thoughts and/or reflections...

- This is a long-term change in attitude for educators, students, parents and society as a whole. NOT A QUICK FIX.
- Great night! Now how do we communicate that to our students/grandkids?
- It seems a contradiction difficult to understand with the elevating cost of college - 50% of college students come from “lower income” families - are they incurring greater college debt or do they qualify for more financial aid - and where are the “upper income” students going?
- Administration plays a major role in a student’s success P-12 → college...need alignment
- Redesigned SAT
- Rigor at the high school level matters → How can we prepare students for college majors in high schools

- Amazing is the gap b/+ the different folks who think they are ready v. the ones who actually are ready
- What I see is the students who have done a high school senior defense are better at writing in college.
- Decline in graduation rates
- Disconnect between P-12 and post-secondary
- Colleges are starting to look beyond academics
- Hard to teach some of the skills that are necessary for students to be successful
- Just as Dr. Aviles focused on, I think the disconnect is also apparent in the K-12 level. As students move through grades, they are often not prepared for next grade, middle school, high school...
- SAT national average 1520 ↓ 1490 - dramatic drop
- Impact of ENL students
- Currently undergrads will not meet needs for credentialing requirements
- ↓ 50 are prepped for all four subjects
- College success vs. ability to get into college



Holistic admissions

- Our district needs a writing rubric across the board (complete sentences, capitalization, punctuation, transitions, paragraphs) - until this happens, we won't improve our assessment scores or college success either.
- K-12 and college level need better dialogue - need to align much better
- Many non-cognitive variables are taught (should be) in home - if missed there, difficult to teach
- HUGE disconnection between PreK-12 and post-secondary high school students, higher GPAs, more credits, NOT more success
- Senior year rigor → class rigor specifically
- Question: Have Frontier's SAT scores declined?

- Powerful stuff!
- One point that really hit home with me was the seat time vs. competence aspect. Even at 5th grade, too many kids move through without that competence.
- All these skills can be built and developed throughout P-12...worth our time and effort to deliberately and thoughtfully plan and execute!
- Instead of race what is the family status - married, divorced, never married - kids need attitude to achieve instead of it given to them - PEL grants, free lunch - pride?
- Many kids do mere college level classes in K-12 and the college role is dropping?
- What do we need to provide for students who are not prepared for the next level of education? (middle and high school)
- The college readiness gap must be addressed by high school/college
- Internships should be mandatory for all high school students
- Dialogue between K-12 and higher education must be consistent and can't be bogged down or heavily influenced by politics
- Time management is crucial!
- Are students who attend college there because they truly want to continue their studies or are they there for other reasons (partying, parents pressuring them, etc.)?