**Developing a Central Intellectual Purpose… Fountaindale’s Process**

**Step 1:** Based on Affirmation Recommendations in May 2012, we established the need to develop a central intellectual purpose to identify our “Fountaindale-ness.”

**Step 2:** Dr. Williamson arranged a meeting with Dr. Crawford to establish a year-long process, involving all stakeholders.

**Step 3:** A professional development session in October was dedicated to answering three questions, collaboratively in World Cafe Style.

* What do you believe about students and learning?
* What do you believe about teachers and teaching?
* What do you believe about Fountaindale?

**Step 4:** The world cafe responses were combined into a one page document for staff to identify common threads…

Feel safe, build communities, perpetual learners, take risks, learn with students, dedication, each student matters, ownership of learning, collective responsibility, voice, curiosity, strength, passion, emphasis on learning and the learner, personalization, individual needs, supported risk-taking, tools to succeed, focus on individuals, high expectations

**Step 5:** Google docs was used to collect responses from all teachers to three new questions, in an effort to continue deeper thinking around our “Fountaindale-ness”

* What do you value about Fountaindale that keeps you coming to work everyday?
* What do you hope your students have gained/will gain through their experience in your grade level at Fountaindale?
* Describe the “Fountaindale-ness” of our school in 2-3 sentences.

**Step 6:** Teams of teachers used the Google docs responses to generate “belief statements.”

**“Belief Statements”**

* Fountaindale is a professional learning community where all stakeholders participate in creating an optimum learning environment
* Fountaindale is a powerful community of discovery, empowerment, creativity, and change
* Fountaindale is a community that places emphasis on learning and risk taking for the growth of ALL
* At Fountaindale, teachers and students own the collective responsibility to strengthen each individual voice as they continue to learn in our ever-changing world
* A place of learning that is fueled by curiosity. (strength, passion, risk-taking)
* We don’t wait for things to happen TO us, we make change happen
* We are a respected learning community in which we take ownership and make change
* Fearlessness… taking risks
* A place to take risks- responsible innovation
* Share a sense of importance (communicators, innovators)
* We are doing important things with what we learn
* A learning community where students and staff are encouraged and supported to take risks and make changes.
* Independence, ownership, creativity
* We value the differences in students and staff
* Arrange for meaningful learning
* Want to do what is of the best interest for individual students
* Empowerment

**Next Steps:**

* Involve stakeholders (parents, students, community groups)
* Come to a consensus on a Central Intellectual Purpose by May 2013.

**Step 7:** Community Involvement

Consider three questions:

• What do you value about Fountaindale?

• What do you hope our students have gained/will gain through their experience at Fountaindale?

• Describe the “Fountaindale-ness” of our school.

Develop “Belief Statements”

**Step 8:** Consensus~ Staff will use input from all steps to create a 2-3 sentence Compelling Purpose Statement