A Call to Leadership: Harnessing the Power of Student Voice in Leading School Improvement
Harwood Union High School Leadership Team

So. Duxbury Vermont
Outcomes for this Session:

1. Understand the benefits of a shared model of leadership inclusive of teachers and students.

2. Begin to construct a proposal or plan for instituting a distributed / shared leadership model inclusive of teachers and students in your school.
Ice-Breaker:

Student LT members asked their peers...

1. Why is it important to include students in the design and decision-making for school change?

2. What message is communicated when students are left out of the school redesign process?
Ice-Breaker:

Walk around the room and check out the photos and testimonials from Harwood students. Find one that resonates with you.
Focus Question for Ice-Breaker

Relate your chosen student testimonial to what you observe at your own school.

Round Robin Share / Discussion
All School Dialogue Says...
Category I: Teaching and Learning

To improve as a school, we should focus on:

- students providing regular, formal feedback to teachers.
- students providing input on class offerings.
- teachers structuring classes to include choice in meeting proficiencies and addressing the learning needs and interests of individuals.
- teachers structuring classes to include opportunities for student exploration and student designed learning.
Category II: Relationships

More opportunities for teachers and students to develop positive relationships:

- 1:1 Conferencing in class
- Informal Check-ins within Teacher Advisory
- More H-Block Type Activities (student chosen)
Category III: Leadership

- Conduct decision making meetings during the school day to include students
- Create a process for sharing information and decision-making
Focus Task:

Think about a distributed model of leadership and/or extending student voice as a component of school improvement and decision-making for your school.

- Identify the Assets and Barriers that exist for each of the components listed
- Discuss with your team / table group

"I'm a firm believer in distributive leadership. That means that I make all the decisions and then you type them up and distribute them to the staff."

http://msriveras-starfish.blogspot.com/
Nuts and Bolts - Student Inclusion

TASK 1:
**Review roles and responsibilities** of the Leadership Team:
- highlight those you feel apply to students
- circle and re-write or frame any you did not highlight so it is applicable to student membership
- put a line through any you feel are simply not relevant to students

TASK 2:
**Respond to the following questions:**
- how many students should be selected/elected
- from what grade level should they be selected/elected
- what should be the commitment for service

TASK 3:
**Debate, Discuss, Decide**

TASK 4:
**Identify** the application process, create the products, and communicate
Focus Task

Think about a distributed model of leadership and/or extending student voice as a component of school improvement and decision-making for your school.

- What is your current state?
- Desired state?
- What action steps are necessary to get you there?

Use the Distributed Model of Leadership: Planning Template and begin.
QUESTIONS...
Presenters and Contact Information

Students:
Emma Cosgrove, grade 11
Noah Eckstein, grade 11
Cole Lavoie, grade 12
Hazel Macmillan, grade 9

Teachers:
Jonah Ibson, 9th Grade Humanities, jibson@wwsu.org
Sam Krotinger, High School Media/Art, skrotinger@wwsu.org

Administrator:
Amy Rex, Co-Principal arex@wwsu.org, @rexaharwood
Resources:

Outcomes of Harwood All School Dialog

Assets and Barriers

Characteristics of Shared Model of Leadership

Distributed Model of Leadership: Planning Template

Harwood Leadership Team Purpose

Harwood Student Leadership Team Participation

Student Introduction to Leadership Team Presentation
Resources:

[Link to Rec Form]

[Student Participation: Letter Home]