



# Ohio School Boards Association Capital Conference and Trade Show

November 13 – 16, 2011

Greater Columbus Convention Center  
Columbus, Ohio

## Student-led conferences

### Student Issues

Tuesday, November 15, 2011

3:45 p.m.

C 114–115

Melissa Evans-Knop, Fairless Local (Stark)

Annette Huffman, Fairless Local (Stark)

#### OSBA website

OSBA's website is designed to best serve member needs. The website, [www.ohioschoolboards.org](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org), is available to provide instant access to issues on current educational hot topics and information on OSBA's many featured services and programs.

One of the features to the website includes the 'members only' section. Information in the 'members only' section is reserved just for OSBA members.

For questions or further information, contact OSBA at (614) 540-4000 or (800) 589-OSBA. We are always ready to serve you.

Please complete an online conference evaluation either during or after the event at:  
<http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/CC11Evaluation>

#### OSBA Mission

*OSBA leads the way to educational excellence by serving Ohio's public school board members and the diverse districts they represent through superior service and creative solutions.*

#### Ohio School Boards Association

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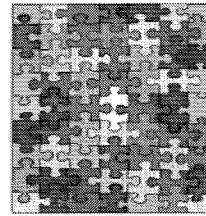
# Student-Led Conferences

Melissa Evans-Knop  
and  
Annette Huffman  
November 15, 2011



## Introduction Activity

- The Missing Piece



## Post-It Activity

- Recall a parent/ teacher conference in which you attended.
  - What did the room look like?
  - Who was there?
  - Where was everyone seated?
  - What was said?
- In your opinion, what do you believe are the benefits of a student-led conference?
- Please put only one thought on a Post-It.
- Place your Post-Its on the proper posters.

## Questions we hope to answer through our presentation:

- What are student-led conferences?
- What are the benefits of student-led conferences?
- Who is involved in student-led conferences?
- What does a student-led conference look like?

## Introduction

- What is a student-led conference?
  - Student-led conferencing is a way for students to be "in control" of their own learning. Students facilitate formal conferences with their guests by sharing goals, work samples, test results, as well as strengths and weaknesses.



## Top 10 Reasons for Student-Led Conferences

- 10 to facilitate the development of organizational skills
- 9 to enhance student's oral communication skills
- 8 to increase self-esteem
- 7 to teach students the process of self evaluation
- 6 to encourage students, parents, and teachers to engage in open and honest dialogue



## Top 10 Reasons for Student-Led Conferences

- 5 to increase parent attendance at conferences
- 4 to accommodate parents who arrive late or do not speak English
- 3 to show an authentic audience student achievements and any areas needing improvement
- 2 to ensure students are the "center," creating a productive and differentiated learning atmosphere

## And the #1 Reason for Student-Led Conferences is..

To promote students to accept personal responsibility for their academics and behaviors.



### Preparation and Process of Student-Led Conferencing.....

- **TEACHER**
  - Parents are notified of their new roles involved in this conference format
  - Provide parents with a list of sample questions to ask their children during the conference
- **STUDENT**
  - Prepare portfolios, model, and practice expectations
- **STUDENT, TEACHERS, & PARENT**
  - Provide opportunity for reflection
  - Make a plan for the student



### Before the Conference

- Reflect on work in each class
- Reflect on behaviors and attitudes
- Discuss ways to improve various behaviors and attitudes
- Learn how to set goals
  - Buy in by all involved
- Set tentative goals
- Develop an agenda
- Practice



### During the Conference

- Introductions
- Share letter
- Review reflection sheet
- Review behavior/ attitude checklist
- Share work samples
- Share strengths and weaknesses
- Set goals (Personal and/ or educational)
- Each teacher visits conference (2-4 mins)

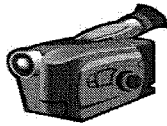


### After the Conference

- Student Evaluation
- Parent Evaluation
- Teacher Reflection



## Student-Led Conference Video



## Things to Remember:

- All students conduct a student-led conference
- Students have an agenda
- Students have a self evaluation of work and behavior
- Students have a list of strengths and weaknesses
- Students set goals
- Students have a portfolio or work samples
- Students are in control of conference
- **Teacher is listener and facilitator**



## Frequently Asked Questions

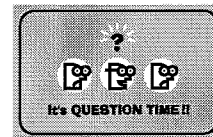
- If the teacher doesn't take control over a parent conference, who will lead?
- If the teacher doesn't have hands-on planning of what is to be discussed and present, who will do the planning?
- If the teacher doesn't do all the talking during the conferences, who will?

**THE STUDENT**



## FAQ Questions....

- Can low achieving students conduct effective student-led conferences?
- How much preparation time does it take to get ready?



### FAQ Questions....

- How do you handle parents who are aggressive or negative during the conferences?



### Things That We Found

- Typical conference night 20-30 parents; Student-led conferences 40-50 parents
- Focuses on positives and ways student can improve
- Atmosphere much more comfortable for ALL parties involved
- Students see progression over time
- Students practice etiquette

### Fairless Middle School Teacher Comments

- Parents hear the message four different times so they don't think it's a personality issue with certain teachers.
- Student-led conferences are the ONLY way to go, I hope we don't go back to the traditional conferences!
- The students did a great job of sharing their accomplishments.
- The discussions were wonderful!
- Scheduling is easy and conferences are less stressful!
- It's interesting to see what the students like or dislike about your class subject.
- Students take a more active role in their conference.



### Fairless Middle School Student Comments

- The best part about student-led conferences is.....
  - \*My parents really listen to me
  - \*Feeling proud
  - \*Spending time with my parents
  - \*Sitting and talking to my parents alone
  - \*Sharing my work with my mom
  - \*Setting goals
  - \*Hearing what my teachers had to say



### Fairless Middle School Parent Comments

- The part I like best about student-led conferences.....
- ~I see my child in a different light while conducting this type of conference with confidence and maturity.
- ~It is relaxed and informal.
- ~This is such a special time spent with my child.
- ~I like seeing all levels of work in the portfolio.

### Student-Led Conferences and "The Business World"

- Being authentic
- Be organized
- Be able to multi-task and juggle projects
- Develop written and verbal communication skills
- Be able to think critically

### Student-Led Conferences and "The Business World"

- Become familiar with media
- Be deadline oriented
- Be assertive and confident in your abilities
- Develop and maintain a good portfolio
- Be motivated

What questions do you have?

