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Antioch School District 34 to use new classroom evaluation method



Jay Marino - Original Credit: Jay Marino (HANDOUT / HANDOUT)

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Administrators at Antioch School District 34 will use a new method to evaluate how curriculum is taught. The new system, called Learning Walks, will replace traditional classroom evaluations.

The Learning Walks will be brief visits from a trained in-house committee throughout the year. The observers will focus on curriculum, lessons, student environment, student engagement and overall framework and quality. The information gathered will be provided to the school board and administration.

"It's a tool that will provide educators the opportunity to reflect on what students are learning, learning strategies, student interaction with the content and student engagement," District 34 Supt. Jay Marino said.

The new system, which will begin this school year, allows observers to focus on teaching strategies, which can help create a better curriculum plan, the superintendent said.

"If we're to be spending time in classrooms, we should go in there with a clear purpose," Marino said.

School board members met last week to start discussions on who will make up the Learning Walks committee. Board members advised the group should include District 34 members from various positions.

Marino said teachers, principals, board members and representatives of the Antioch Elementary Education Association will likely participate as committee members. Students in the district's five schools return to the classroom for the start of the 2016-17 academic year on Aug. 24.

Yadira Sanchez Olson is a freelance reporter for the News-Sun.

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