**Reflective Journal – Week 3**

Date: March 23, 2012

Journal Entry #: 3

Issue addressed (e.g. Student Discipline): Curriculum, Textbook Adoption

Colorado Principal Standard addressed: VI(b)

What I Observed/Learned:

This week I was able to attend a board meeting where my principal was going to present a set of textbook adoptions for calculus II, AP statistics, and AP environmental science. I was able to observe as he prepared the materials he was going to use during his presentation to the board, and gain insight to the thought process behind the presentation. The goal of his presentation was being able to provide a viable curriculum to the students. The new books were needed for the calculus II and AP environmental science because they are new course offerings that we do not currently have a textbook for. The AP statistics book needed to be replaced because it is nearly 10 years old, and the material used to present statistical operations is hard for the current group of students to relate to. The principal had already had a number of meetings with each curriculum adoption team to discuss the merits of each book and resource option, and to gain information on why the selected book was the best of the presented options. The teachers were able to help him by giving him a good set of information to use when presenting the books to the board for adoption. This was impactful for me because it helped me to understand the process of how a textbook is adopted, and the amount of thought and preparation that goes into it.

How This Will Impact My Leadership Practice:

One impact this will have on my leadership is an understanding that I can entrust teachers to evaluate books, select the book and resources that they feel are the best, and help to provide me with information I can use in presenting the book to a board hearing. The principal is always pulled in so many directions, that it would be difficult to dedicate the amount of time needed to do a quality evaluation of every textbook and resource that are up for adoption. Furthermore, the teachers are already extremely involved with the curriculum they work with, so they would be able to better judge what texts would work best within that curriculum.

Critical Issues:

The most important issue to pay attention to in this case is selecting a textbook that fits well with the curriculum that is being used or that has been selected. By selecting a quality textbook and resources, you give teachers the ability to provide their students with a high quality, rigorous curriculum. If you are going to select teachers to evaluate textbooks, you must also make sure that you do a good job of selecting the best possible candidates to undertake that process. It is also important to help guide the process whenever possible by meeting with the teachers and discussing progress and any possible issues that may have arisen.