Observation Notes – Greg Neely 12 Jan. 2017

Period I. Anna Patterson – Calculus AB

Anna’s classroom is well organized with interesting math related posters which would put students in a “math” mind set. She worked through a number of homework problems with the class and the student engagement was high. I talked to her about how she handles homework and since this is sometimes a problem for me – handling many pieces of paper. She utilizes her TA to help with this.

Take A-ways to Implement Immediately:

1. Make better use of TA’s to reduce paperwork. This will allow more time for lesson planning and refinement.
2. Utilize TA to collect and verify homework completion during class time. Provides more actual teaching time.

Period II. Jennifer Dukelow – Honors Algebra-Pre Calculus

Jennifer uses a tablet with a stylus to mark over lesson material. She faces the students and doesn’t have to walk back to a document camera as I do. She has good lesson material that she has developed over the years which saves much time.

Take A-ways:

1.     Consider using a tablet and working from the front of the room.

2.     Borrow more material from experienced teachers.

3.     Have a file holder for old assignments so students don’t have to ask you for missing material.

Period III. Sarah Boustila – Algebra 2

Sarah has her room arranged in groups of 4 and five students. She used an “airliner” and walks around the room while writing with a stylus over the lesson material. Lights were off or low which seemed to help engagement. Students worked problems at their desks which kept them on track.

Take A-ways:

1.     Consider using an airliner and walk around the room more often.

2.     Try grouping students but make sure you pick the grouping. See if students can learn from each other more effectively.