From:	Sands, Laura (Harkin)
To:	Olesen, Susie
Subject:	RE: Skills Iowa
Date:	Tuesday, September 14, 2010 8:13:27 AM

Hi Susie, It was great to see you too!

Let's shoot for 9/20, mid afternoon, say 3:00? Laura

From: Olesen, Susie [mailto:susie@skillsiowa.org]
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2010 9:42 PM
To: laurasands@mchsi.com; Sands, Laura (Harkin)
Subject: Skills Iowa

Hi Laura –

It was so good to see you Sunday in Indianola and see you so HAPPY. I can't imagine what a pleasure it would be to work for Senator Harkin. HURRAAAYY! Plus he's so fortunate to have you and your good sense on staff. Perfect fit. I know he's committed to children and good health for starters. And I'm sure there are a million common values you have.

I look forward to sharing some of the Skills Iowa work with you. I hope the first thing we can do is get together for coffee so we can discuss where the project has been and where we are now. Here are some dates I could meet – maybe you could look at your calendar and let me know what it looks like:

Friday, September 17, anytime after 10 a.m.
Monday, September 20, anytime
Monday, September 27, anytime
Wed., Sept. 29, anytime before 11 a.m. or after 1 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 30, anytime
Friday, October 1, anytime

We have so much to talk about. Holy Moses.

Here are some things I hope we can do after that. Of course I would love to share all three with you (and others we figure out!), but I know your time is limited for just one project.

1. Visit schools that use the programs and talk to teachers, principals, and kids.
2. Coming up at the end of Oct. and into Nov. we're having regional meetings. We're going to show the user schools the data from the schools with high usage and high achievement and then have them look at their own usage. Our reports have shown a correlation between usage and higher achievement – no surprise.
3. Once the USDE approves the grant that started Sept. 3, we are going to work with the Leadership and learning Center in Colorado (Doug Reeves' group). They are going to work with teams from our schools to begin the process of learning how to work in data teams. I suspect we'll start that mid year – possibly sooner.

So, congrats on your new job, Laura. Let me know if any of this will work for you. I can't wait to see you!

Best regards -

Susie

Susan Olesen

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