

Riverview School District

Education Committee Meeting Notes*

Monday, March 4, 2013

7:00 – 10:00 PM

Central Office Conference Room

Present at the meeting: Mrs. Dolan, Mr. Hackworth, Mr. Tillman, Dr. McClure, Mrs. Ashbaugh, Mr. Kadylak, Dr. Loeffler, Mrs. Tompa, Dr. DiNinno, Mr. Moser, Ms. Nix, Mr. Shoaf, Mr. Zolkowski, Mrs. Walsh, Mr. Carlin, Mrs. Gardy, Mrs. Allen, Mr. O'Malley, Mrs. Rocchini, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Libell, Mr. Perrino, Mr. Hart, Mr. Jaynes, Mrs. Black

Absent: Mrs. Vitti

AGENDA:

Before beginning the agenda, Mrs. Black thanked Mrs. Karen Davidson, secondary art teacher, for posting student art work and related writing in the Conference Room. Students were asked to extend their artwork to include poetry and short stories. We commend Mrs. Davidson for infusing writing into her art instruction.

- English Language Arts Curriculum Review Report

(Department Chair Michelle Walsh and Teachers Kristen Allen, Melissa Arnett, Mark Carlin, Jeri Gardy, Ryan O'Malley and Casey Rocchini)

- Elementary Literacy Committee/Core Reading Programs for Consideration

The English department presented its curriculum review report which included an analysis of 4Sight, PSSA and CDT data, local/regional/national concerns, newly drafted curriculum maps for each course, resource requests, reference to professional journals/associations and new courses (Reading 7 and 8). The department answered questions about vocabulary and spelling instruction, *Language!*, cross-curricular writing opportunities, the impact of the new 7/8 reading courses on other course options and the department's request to include journalism, creative writing and humanities as possible supplemental clubs for next year.

- Music Curriculum Review Report

(Teachers Nathan Hart, Ian Hughes, Jason Libell and Joe Perrino)

The music department also presented a curriculum review report and responded to Board questions. Among the topics discussed were the number of students involved in music programs (very high!), differentiation options, PR for our music programs, options for online courses, visiting artists/master classes, independent study and music theory classes. Even as other districts are dismantling music programs, Riverview continues to be a champion of the arts. Mrs. Dolan added a personal note to praise the district and music department for supporting numerous and varied musical opportunities for our students.

- Pennsylvania School Performance Profile (<https://vimeo.com/56990872>)

(Lynn Black)

Mrs. Black spoke briefly about PDE's newly created PA School Performance Profile. Every building in the Commonwealth will be assigned a building level score reflecting its academic performance. The score will also be included for each teacher in each building as part of PDE's new Educator Effectiveness System. Board members were encouraged to access the website on this agenda to view the PDE webinar.

Updates

- **Mathematics** (Jay Moser)
Mr. Moser updated the Board on the math department's investigation of new materials. Teachers will be using *Curriculum Materials Analysis Tools* developed by the University of Louisville, AMTE and NCSM. He also spoke about the Algebra I iTextbook Project. This is a cross-district project led by IU3 and North Hills School District. Our representative for the project is Mrs. Erin Evanchec.
- **Arts Education Collaborative (AEC)** (Lynn Black)
Mrs. Black discussed recent AEC activities which include teacher and administrator interviews, parent and student focus groups and teacher professional development. The AEC self-analysis report is due in April.
- **2013-2014 Program of Studies/School Calendar** (Jay Moser, Tiffany Nix, Peggy DiNinno)
Dr. DiNinno provided another update on the school calendar/building schedules and answered Board questions. Her suggestion to delay the secondary start time 15 minutes is based on the need to provide additional teacher planning/collaboration time. Mrs. Ashbaugh asked about the impact of this schedule on the current 10th period, which is used by many students to confer with teachers and receive instructional assistance. She had questions about the impact on the Verona bus schedule and sports events.
- **PSAT 2012-2013 SOAS (*Summary of Answers and Skills Report*)** (Jay Moser, Tiffany Nix)
Mr. Moser presented SAT and PSAT data. Mrs. Black reminded the Board that this data represents ALL Riverview sophomores and juniors since the test is given during the school day and all students participate. She also discussed efforts made by the secondary guidance counselors to share SAT/PSAT test details and results with students and their parents. Mrs. Dolan and Dr. McClure requested electronic copies of the SAT data from Mr. Moser.
- **Race to the Top (Walk Through)** (Lynn Black)
This new form will be used as part of the district's Race to the Top grant. It documents teacher implementation of the daily posting of instructional goals/objectives.
- **Schoolwide Positive Behavior Intervention Systems (SWPBIS)** (Jay Moser, Jason Shoaf, David Zolkowski)
Mr. Shoaf and Mr. Zolkowski spoke about the success of the SWPBIS program in their buildings and how they, the building counselors and the SWPBIS building teams are working to align SWPBIS with Olweus.

Informational Items

- 2013 - 2014 Phase 3 Comprehensive Planning Process (formerly Strategic Plan)
- MAT/University of Pittsburgh

- PETE & C Conference (P. Kvortek, D. Huselton Reports)
- PSSA Schedules for Tenth Street, Verner, Jr/Sr High
- March 4, 2013 Professional Development Day Schedules

Additional agenda item: Verner School Safety Discussion

There was a lengthy (9:00 – 9:55) discussion about safety concerns at Verner. Dr. DiNinno and Mr. Jaynes answered Board questions about the most recent proposal. After much discussion, the Board agreed to proceed with plans to provide additional safety features at Verner to support the safety of students and teachers.

A special thank you to Mrs. Heidi Dolan for serving as Ed Comm co-chair this year!