

**Boyertown Area School District
Curriculum Committee
March 8, 2016
Minutes**

Mrs. Usavage called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm in Conference Room A of the Education Center.

Board members in attendance: Mrs. Dennin, Mr. Elsier, Mrs. Usavage, Ms. Neiman, Mr. Breece, Mr. Lewis and Mr. Stengle

Administration in attendance: Dr. Woodard, Dr. Miller, Dr. Faidley

BASD Staff in Attendance: 0

Members of the Public: 3

Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and observed a moment of silence.

The minutes from the December 1, 2015 meeting were accepted.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Presentation and Discussion

The Data Summary

Mrs. Usavage introduced the topic of the 2014-2015 data summary this evening. Given that both Dr. Woodard and Dr. Miller have a large amount of data to share, any questions should be held until the end of the presentation. She also shared that since the February meeting was cancelled due to weather conditions, it will be rescheduled on April 19, 2016 at 7 pm. During this meeting, we will discuss the common core standards and PA core.

Dr. Miller explained the Data Summary will show where our district is based on last year's assessments results. However, sometimes data tends to give people more questions than answers. One of the key questions everyone wants to know is, how are we doing? Dr. Miller shared that when examining the data we are looking for the trends, possible causes, possible remedies and our priorities. As a district, our priorities have already been established through our comprehensive planning process.

Dr. Miller shared the district's 2014-2015 demographic data. Looking at the totals there has been a relatively stable number of enrollments from 2011-2014. The trends show the district is shifting where the population lies with an increase in the elementary population and increase in low income families. Dr. Miller also shared the percentage of low income families by school. As the number of low income families increases, it will affect the amount of resources available within each building. This is a key piece to predict achievement levels in each building. Dr. Miller explained the junior high schools show an upward trend in population, while the high school shows a slight downward trend in population due to it being the collection of all the

schools. Looking at the population by grade level shows a slight decrease in both kindergarten and first grade, along with a slight decrease in class size based on population trends.

Dr. Miller shared that the PA Department of Education has developed a School Performance Profile which provides a building level score throughout the Commonwealth. It was created to inform the public about performance of each public school and give a means of comparison. Dr. Miller explained for a school district, the School Performance Profile serves multiple purposes. It informs and guides goal setting and provides resource allocation and targets for improved student achievement. It also compares performance to other schools and encourages implementation of best practices. Dr. Miller explained currently there is no School Performance Profile score available for our junior high and elementary schools due to lack of connection between the old PSSA and the new PSSA exam. This year a School Performance Profile score is available for the High School only. Dr. Miller shared our high school scored 84.3% which is 3rd out of 18 in Berks County and 17th out of 22 in Montgomery County.

Dr. Miller discussed that this score is based on multiple measures which include state assessment data. Many data elements are combined to create the academic score. These elements are categorized into five areas. The indicators of academic achievement make up 40% of our score. Dr. Miller shared our district showed an increase in Math, a decrease in English Language Arts, an increase in Science and slight decrease in industry standards. Dr. Miller explained that because of the slight drop in English Language Arts, we made some adjustments and added constructive response areas across all content areas in high school. Dr. Woodard shared in previous years every teacher taught one section of 10th grade English Language Arts. This year we focused a set group of teachers to really hone in on 10th grade. Basically we reassigned personnel to their strengths.

Dr. Miller shared the indicators of closing the achievement gap makes up 10% of our score. This is a comparison of the baseline percentage of students who are proficient and advanced to the goal of 100% proficiency. If a school is on track, a score of 100% is earned. If a school has closed 80% of the gap, an 80% score is earned. A school that is not making progress in closing the gap earns a 0%. Dr. Miller shared our district received an 84% in Algebra 1, 0% in Literature and 100% in Science when looking at all students. The state uses the highest Keystone score obtained by the 11th grade year.

Dr. Miller shared the indicator of academic growth which makes up 40% of our score. The Pennsylvania Value Added Assessment System (PVAAS) growth index represents the school's impact on the academic progress of groups of students from year to year. Based on the data from the high school, Algebra showed moderate evidence that the school did not meet the standard of growth. Literature showed significant evidence that the school exceeded the standard of growth and Biology showed moderate evidence that the school exceeded the standard of growth. Dr. Miller shared that areas that lacked growth, like Algebra, will need to be drilled into further for answers.

Dr. Miller explained the remaining 10% of the score is not based on state assessment. The score looks at the graduation rate, attendance rate, advanced placement and PSAT participation. Dr. Miller shared our graduation rate is 93%. However this data is misleading because the rate the state reports to us is based on a four year graduation plan. They do not take into account our special needs students who are able to stay into the school system until they are twenty-one years

old. Since they do not complete in the four years that is held against us as a district. Dr. Miller shared our attendance rate is amazing at 97%. We also earned 100% in advanced placement and PSAT participation.

Dr. Miller shared extra credit, up to 7 points, can be earned for advanced achievement. Our district has been capitalizing on those points based on the high percentage of students scoring advanced on the Keystone Assessments. All of these components added together provides us with our School Performance Profile. Dr. Miller explained all the data provided is only from the high school.

Looking at our Keystone Exam data Dr. Miller shared we see an upward trend in Biology and slight increase in Literature. Algebra 1 also showed an upward trend after our district made a change in the sequence.

Dr. Miller shared that since the 2014-2015 PSSA changed from last year, and we did not have anything to compare it to, we took how we did this year and in previous years and compared it to the state. Based on this data there is not a huge variation from last year and previous years to the state. Dr. Miller also shared PVAAS data which provided evidence that our district exceeds the standard for academic growth in Math/Algebra 1, ELA/Literature and Science/Biology. This is a huge celebration for the Boyertown Area School District. Dr. Woodard shared that both the grade 4 and grade 7 PSSA used to be just a reading test, now it is a reading and writing test. There is a big focus on text dependent analysis from grades 4 through grade 8. We are currently working with our teachers to professionally develop them so they can work with their students on more critical thinking which is needed on complex level texts. The Keystone PVAAS data showed significant to moderate growth looking at all student across Algebra, Literature and Biology.

Dr. Miller discussed our advanced placement as a district and shared a list of all our classes we currently offer. Of the 522 students, 349 students scored 3 or higher. Dr. Woodard shared we will be adding to our course catalog in 2017-2018 AP Physics 1, AP Government, AP Psychology and AP Human Geography. We are also looking to work with local universities to add to our concurrent enrollment courses as well. Dr. Miller shared our concurrent enrollment is meeting the needs of our students and shows an upward trend but has leveled off in the past years.

Dr. Miller shared our extra-curricular activities in 2014-2015 which shows an increase in sports, leveling trend in arts and music and an increase in clubs. Dr. Miller believes students who are involved in school will be successful well rounded students.

Dr. Miller explained all the data provided today can be used to create action plans, teachers' PLC meetings, and help decide on professional learning needs.

Mr. Stengle would like to see a comparison of student achievement to Montgomery County. Dr. Miller explained he would need to do further research to provide this. Mr. Stengle asked how many students are not involved in any activities. Dr. Miller did not have that information available but can provide it at another time.

Mr. Breece asked how we are doing creating our own standards. Dr. Miller explained we have started some conversations around making our own measure and then comparing it to similar districts. Mr. Breece would also like to see more comparisons to other counties such as Montgomery County.

Dr. Faidley added that as we develop what the board wants to see as data sets we can add or remove from the data report. Board members were invited to send any additional questions regarding the data summary to Dr. Faidley.

Public Comment

No Public Comment

Announcements

March 8, 2016 - Board of School Directors Reorganization Meeting, Education Center, 7:00 PM

March 15, 2016 - Finance Committee Meeting, Education Center, 6:00 PM

March 15, 2016 - Facilities Committee Meeting, Education Center, 7:00 PM

March 22, 2016 - Parent/Community/Intergovernmental Committee, Education Ctr, 6:00 PM

March 22, 2016 - Policy Review Committee, Education Center, 7:00 PM

Mrs. Usavage adjourned the meeting at 6:57 pm.