

**Boyertown Area School District
Curriculum Committee
July 16, 2013
Minutes**

Mrs. Semmens, Curriculum Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm in the Education Center Board Room.

Board members in attendance: Mr. Crossley, Dr. Cristman, Mrs. Dierolf, Mr. Nichols, Mrs. Hartford, Mrs. Usavage, Mrs. Semmens

Administration in attendance: Mr. Miller, Mr. Miles and Mrs. Woodard

Members of the Public: 2

Everyone recited the pledge of allegiance to the flag and observed a moment of silence.

The minutes from the May 28, 2013 meeting were accepted.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Presentation and Discussion

Mrs. Semmens began by welcoming everyone and introduced Mrs. Woodard.

Differentiated Supervision:

Mrs. Woodard began by sharing that we would be having a few different presentations this evening. She started with an overview of the new differentiated supervision plan which is a component of the Educator Effectiveness Model. She reminded everyone of the presentation on the Educator Effectiveness Model which had been presented during the May 28th meeting.

She went on to clarify that the state has recommended districts utilize a differentiated supervision model due to the intensity of the formal observation process. Mrs. Woodard went on to share the details of the plan which follow the guidelines from PDE. Mrs. Woodard also shared how principals are determining which teachers will be in the clinical model as well as the differentiated supervision model.

Mrs. Woodard next explained the different modes for the differentiated supervision plan. The modes include: Colloquium for Classroom/School Implementation, Learning Action Plan, Integrating Technology to Increase Student Engagement, Collegial Coaching and Independent Project. Each of the selections do require administrative approval to ensure that the teachers are not initiating projects on topics that do not support Boyertown Area School District. Mrs. Woodard also discussed the increase in rigor required in the new options and the integration of action research. This plan was developed collaboratively with the BASD Professional Education Council which is made up of teachers from throughout the district. Finally, Mrs. Woodard

shared that one of the biggest changes from our present system is that teachers would no longer have the ability to choose a formal observation each year and therefore must utilize one of the differentiated modes during the other years.

Questions:

Mrs. Dierolf asked what percent of the staff would be in each mode?

Mrs. Woodard shared that 1/3 would be in the clinical observation and 2/3 would be in the differentiated model.

Mrs. Dierolf asked if teachers are pulled out of the classroom for any of the components. Mrs. Woodard shared that this will not require teachers to be pulled out of the classroom. The necessary meetings would be held during planning time, before or after school.

Mrs. Hartford asked if a formal observation is the same as a clinical observation. Mrs. Woodard shared that they are the same although a clinical observation is considered to be a more intense observation. She went on to share that one specific difference is the addition of a pre-observation conference.

Mrs. Usavage asked if we will exceed the 1/3 in the formal observation process with only those required to be observed next year. Mrs. Woodard assured her that we will not and that we will have the ability to back fill other teachers into the year A process.

Dr. Christman clarified that each year there would be a subset of new teachers in the clinical observation cycle. Mrs. Woodard agreed.

Dr. Christman asked what the frequency of principal contact would be with those involved in the differentiated supervision model. Mrs. Woodard shared that at the minimum there is a proposal meeting at the beginning of the year, a mid-year meeting, and an end of the year meeting. Along with these meetings, PDE is suggesting that administrators use walkthroughs to collect additional information related to the work being done.

Dr. Christman asked if the tool allows teachers to identify an area of focus that the principals can use to focus their visits. Mrs. Woodard acknowledged that this is correct. However, the visits do not have to be focused on only these areas.

Mrs. Usavage asked if there is any plan to have teachers share what they are learning with other people within the district. Mrs. Woodard did share that this is a suggestion from PDE and believes that this could be the ultimate outcome that could even drive some of the professional development being offered in the district.

Mrs. Usavage clarified that the teachers would be able to select which mode they would be involved in. Mrs. Woodard agreed but reiterated the principals must also concur.

Mrs. Usavage asked if the learning action plan should be an expectation of all teachers. Mr. Miller shared that many of our teachers are already doing some of the steps but that the idea of additional learning would be the benefit that is not currently being utilized.

Mrs. Semmens shared a concern that this is more on each teacher's plate. And asked if this is an additional piece for each of them to do, when will this be done? Mrs. Woodard shared that this is a new requirement that will involve more work on their part without any true additional time.

Summer Professional Development:

Mrs. Woodard provided an overview of the professional development being offered this summer. She provided the mission and goals of these programs. She went on to share that at this point there have been 69 offerings so far this summer with approximately 1082 participants.

Additionally, she highlighted a few of the special offerings such as the partnership with Studio B who provided a session to our art teachers as well as a few of the elementary teachers.

Mrs. Semmens shared that the information was helpful and helped to show where we are as a district.

Continuing Education Fall 2013 Course Proposal:

Board members were given a list of the proposed offerings. Mrs. Woodard shared that she would be looking for approval of the offerings at the August board meeting. She also highlighted the new offerings for this year.

A discussion began related to how to advertise the offerings. Suggestions were made to have the listing at local businesses. An additional suggestion was also made to have the information available online.

Summer Camp Enrollment:

Mrs. Woodard shared a list of summer camps that did run this summer. She shared that as of this day 182 students have participated in our summer camps. She went on to explain that unfortunately, a few sessions needed to be cancelled due to lack of enrollment. "Express yourself through art" as well as the sports camps were very popular. In the future we will be looking for more offerings for students in the younger grades.

Mrs. Usavage suggested that we collect some ideas from the parents of younger students to determine additional offerings.

Mrs. Hartford asked for a comparison to the numbers from the previous year. Mrs. Woodard shared that she would provide the numbers as a newsletter item after the conclusion of camp on August 8th.

Public Comment

There were no public comments

Announcements

- July 16, 2013 – 7:00 pm – Board Meeting – Education Center Board Room
- September 24th is the next curriculum committee meeting.

Mrs. Semmens adjourned the meeting at 6:45 pm.