

**Boyertown Area School District
Curriculum Committee
November 19, 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: Dr. Christman, Mrs. Usavage, Mrs. Semmens, Mrs. Hartford, Mrs. Dierolf, Mr. Elsier, and Mr. Nichols

Administration in attendance: Dr. Faidley, Mr. Miller, Mrs. Woodard, Dr. Cooper, Mr. Scoboria, and Mr. Foley

BASD Staff in Attendance: Ms. Diaz, Mr. Frunzi and Ms. Renfro

Members of the Public: 4

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

The minutes from the October 8, 2013 meeting were accepted.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Presentation and Discussion

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

Mrs. Woodard introduced the committee to the five members of the high school team that were there to discuss the BASH Intervention program. Mrs. Woodard also shared that very few high schools have an intervention program.

Dr. Cooper began by sharing a little of the background related to their study of RTI at the secondary level. Dr. Cooper went on to share that they took what they learned from K-8 programs to develop their program. He also shared that they have focused on the mission, vision, values and goals of the building. He emphasized the fact that they are working to provide the following:

1. A safe school climate.
2. Collaborative opportunities.
3. The use of best practices of teaching strategies.
4. An appropriate academic and social intervention to support all students.

Mr. Foley shared with the committee that there isn't a good existing model at the high school level. He also shared that the changes at the high school have provided more instructional time for students. Additionally, the flex periods in the middle of the day allow all students to have 30 minutes of instructional access for an intervention. In reference to identification of need, Mr. Foley explained that they have been looking at data related to past student performance as well as PVAAS data to predict Keystone readiness. At the start of the year they identified students who had a low likelihood of passing the keystone exams.

Mr. Frunzi, Ms. Diaz and Ms. Renfro shared some of their insight from the teacher perspective as well as some insight they gained from students. They discussed how the longer period days help to increase their student engagement. They shared specific examples of setting up and tearing down during a 40 minute period compared to an 80 minute period. One key they described is designing activities specific to 40 minutes of instruction as opposed to 80 minutes. They also shared that teachers like the mix of 40 and 80 minute blocks.

In reference to the flex period they shared that they have worked with students that they may have never worked with otherwise. They noted that the students are growing and improving. Also, the teachers are involved in more collaboration with other teachers.

From the students' perspective they did some research on schedules and interventions. They have come up with some ideas for Dr. Cooper that they will be presenting to him as well as the rest of the administrative team. They have also reported that they like the mix of 40 and 80 minutes.

Dr. Cooper finally discussed the change to attendance data. He specifically shared that they have found that the number of students arriving late is down 20%. He explained that this is showing that the students are getting to school here more frequently and on time.

Mrs. Woodard interjected the experiences she has had when she visited classrooms during the flex period. Specifically, she shared the power of the math intervention in which students are utilizing a computer based system. She also shared that by designing a flex period during the school day all students have access to the support. The system is not dependent on a student coming before or after school in order to receive the needed support.

Finally, some specific student data related to the intervention program. The year started with 392 students receiving direct intervention support during flex and 179 additional students were on their watch list. Of the 392 students 140 students have already been exited. To exit, students have to pass a multi-tiered assessment protocol to show proficiency. Interestingly some students are choosing to stay because they like the structured time.

Questions:

Mrs. Semmens asked if flex exists every day and what the number of teachers and students are. The team from the high school explained that all teachers are involved. Additionally, they shared that they are trying to maintain a 5 to 1 ratio. Mrs. Semmens also asked if there has been professional development. Mr. Foley shared that there has through the Reading Apprenticeship initiatives as well as the materials that are provided. She next asked when the teachers are looking at the data. One of the teachers shared that they utilize time with in flex to analyze the data with the students through student conferencing. Finally, Mrs. Semmens asked when the teachers have time to collaborate. The team shared that both the early dismissal afternoons allow for collaboration but that there are other times as well when the teachers are together and discussing.

Mr. Elsier asked about the fact that 571 students are identified and receiving help. He wanted to ensure the schedule is being used effectively for all students. Specifically, he asked how we are ensuring all students are being helped in the time allotted. The team shared that the students that

are in a flex period are engaged and working. Additionally, they discussed that there are students even in these small groups that may need additional support than what the flex is currently providing. Additionally, they shared how they are engaging even some of the most reluctant learners.

Mr. Elsier also asked about the 930 students that are not in flex. He asked how or what we are doing to meet these students' needs. Dr. Cooper shared that some students are using this time to get additional tutoring support. Additionally, he shared that they will next be looking into using this time to provide enrichment opportunities. He shared a specific example of how an advanced art student would be able to receive enrichment. Dr. Faidley interjected that there isn't a model for us to follow. The high school is creating this path. We are being proactive instead of waiting to see problems and that all of our students have a positive influential person to work with.

A question was also asked related to the AP courses in Science and Math and if they have enough time to the curriculum that is required. Dr. Cooper shared that the AP courses have not lost any time; additionally, by eliminating some of the transition times we have actually increased instructional time in some cases.

Mrs. Semmens next asked what percent of the special education population is in flex. The team did not have a specific answer to this question.

Mrs. Dierolf asked a clarifying question related to class size in the academy approach. Dr. Cooper shared that class size will be the same.

Mrs. Dierolf also asked if all of the writing that is being done in classes other than English is being corrected. . Frunzi shared that in art the students write and he certainly looks at the grammar and punctuation of the work that is given to him. He went on to explain that it truly depends on the purpose of the assignment.

Finally, Mrs. Usavage shared that students are finding that they have access to these supports that are similar to what is available in the smaller learning community

Committee Comment:

Mrs. Usavage shared the positive experience she had in participating in the art exhibit that was held the previous Friday evening at the Hard Bean.

Public Comment

There were no public comments

Announcements

December 3, 2013 Board of School Directors (Reorganization), Education Center – Board Room, 7:00 p.m.

December 10, 2013 Board of School Directors, New Hanover Upper Frederick Elem. – Multi-Purpose Room, 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Semmens adjourned the meeting at 6:48 pm.