

Boyertown Area School District
Curriculum Committee
May 27, 2014
Minutes

Mrs. Usavage called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm in the library of Boyertown Elementary.

Board members in attendance: Mrs. Dennin, Mr. Elsier, Mrs. Hartford, Mr. Landino, Ms. Neiman, Mrs. Usavage, and Mr. Stengle (6:47)

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

BASD Staff in Attendance: 0

Members of the Public: 1

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

The minutes from the April 29, 2014, meeting were accepted.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Presentation and Discussion

Mrs. Usavage shared that Mrs. Woodard would be sharing the summer professional development opportunities available this summer. Mrs. Woodard welcomed everyone and shared an overview of the philosophy of providing professional development to our staff.

An important component that was shared is the fact that in many cases we are utilizing our own BASD staff who are experts in specific areas to provide the professional growth opportunities.

Mrs. Woodard shared that while the end of the school year is approaching the learning is certainly not over especially for the staff. Mrs. Woodard explained that this year, one of the main focuses is on the common core. A video was shown titled *The Three Minute Video Explaining the Common Core State Standards*.

Following the video, Mrs. Woodard continued by explaining that included within the learning, and also related to the Common Core State Standards our teachers will be spending time continuing the work that has been started aligning to the CCSS.

Mr. Landino asked how the common core impacts the special education students. Mrs. Woodard explained that all students are required to take the PA Core Aligned Assessment with the exception of at most 1% of our student body who could qualify to take the Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA).

Professional development offerings related to the CCSS this summer include:

- Core Connections sponsored by the BCIU
- Reading Academy (primary and intermediate)
- Rigorous Reading

Mrs. Dennin asked what the requirement is for teachers to attend summer training. Mrs. Woodard explained that as a component of the collective bargaining agreement, all teachers are required to attend a minimum of 12 hours of administratively directed activities. These hours can be satisfied through any of the summer activities.

Mrs. Hartford suggested that we provide before and after samples to help teachers understand the difference created by the implementation of CCSS. Additionally, she shared that these examples could also help the parents and Board understand the differences as well.

Mrs. Dennin asked if the difference is related to the depth to which they need to know items. Additionally she asked if the benchmark requirements are also changing. Mrs. Woodard shared that both would be true, offering a clarification based on the Fontis & Pinnel levels.

Mrs. Woodard went on to share a major literacy learning opportunity for our staff this summer on July 8. The session will be on the book, *Notice and Note*, by nationally known authors Kylene Beers and Robert Probst. Because of the national notoriety the session will be available to surrounding districts as well. Mr. Elsier asked what the attendance will be for this session. Mrs. Woodard shared she is expecting between 100 and 150 people with the possibility of more from surrounding districts.

Technology Centered Professional Development opportunities include:

- iPads in the Classroom
- Diving into Schoolwires – Managing Teacher Webpages
- Google Drive
- Google Sites
- Technology Academy
- 1:1 BASH Technology Cohort Group

Additionally, Mrs. Woodard shared information related to the following additional offerings:

- Healthy Bodies/Healthy Minds
- Yoga 4 Classrooms
- Strength Based Strategies
- Navigating the 7 C's
- Co-Teaching Academy
- Instruction and Assessment Academy

Mrs. Woodard shared that all of our new hires must participate in an additional five days of professional development during their first three summers in the district. The first year is dedicated to orientation type sessions while years 2 and 3 focus on more in-depth understandings of how to be a better teacher.

Mr. Elsier asked if our new teachers are able to participate in other offerings in the summer. Mrs. Woodard explained that year three allows some choice by our new teachers. Additionally, this five day requirement is in addition to the required 2 days for all teachers.

Finally, Mrs. Woodard shared the Leadership Team Learning through the Learning Forward Academy. The focus of this learning will be on continuous improvement and achievement for all

students. We will create a data driven systematic approach to instruction aligned with a clearly articulated K-12 curriculum.

Additionally, there is a Leadership Academy August 12th and 13th. Our leadership team will experience new data protocols to share with staff and frame the work to be done during the data retreat

Mrs. Usavage appreciated the insight into what occurs in the summer and how we are addressing all the changes.

Cyber Update:

Mrs. Woodard next moved onto the cyber update. She compared the May 1st enrollment for the past three years. Over the past three years, there is an ongoing trend of fewer students who are receiving education from outside charters.

- 2012: 187
- 2013: 163
- 2014: 142

We have begun tracking the students and are identifying where they go.

Obviously some are coming to our BASD cyber and others are using BASD cyber as a transitional step.

Currently there are 29 students enrolled in BASD cyber.

Several of the BASD cyber students are participating in services and co-curricular activities.

Mrs. Hartford asked how we are going about trying to recapture the 142 that are not in our cyber program. Mrs. Woodard shared the event that had been held a few weeks ago as well as the phone and mailings that occur.

Mr. Stengle asked if students from other districts would be allowed to participate in our cyber program. Mrs. Woodard shared that as of now the answer is no but that this is something that has been discussed as we continue to develop.

Dr. Faidley shared that he has initiated conversations at the superintendents meetings to at least begin the conversation of how we can work together in Berks County and the BCIU, so we can grow the number of courses that we have and not have to make all of the investments ourselves.

Mrs. Hartford extended a thank you to Mrs. Woodard, Dr. Faidley, and Mr. Miller for their work in implementing the common core curriculum.

Committee Comment

No comments

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Announcements

May 27, 2014 – Board of School Directors Meeting, Boyertown Elementary, 7:00PM

June 3, 2014 – Retiree Recognition, BASH Cafeteria, 6:15 PM

June 3, 2014 – Board of School Directors Meeting, BASH New Auditorium, 7:00 PM

Mrs. Usavage adjourned the meeting at 6:58 pm.

Motion to adjourn: Ms. Neiman and Mr. Landino