

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING

10:00 a.m.

November 20, 2014

District Office

Members Present: Markus Ladd, Stuart Long, Robert Runge

Others Present: Louise Blankenheim, Deb Sixel, Dawn Mueller, Sheila Lefebber

Call to Order Member Long called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m.

Personalized Learning The discussion began with a follow-up to the presentation at Wednesday's board meeting on Personalized Learning. Dr. Sixel shared that teachers were given summer curriculum time for personalized learning initiatives. The district has partnered with CESA #1 on this initiative and Jim Rickabaugh will be presenting at the January 23rd inservice. Members of the committee were invited to attend. The day will consist of full group and breakout sessions.

Dr. Blankenheim informed the committee that the March 11th half day inservice will include a presenter from Solution Tree on Professional Learning Communities.

Member Long asked Dr. Sixel to provide a brief description and example of differentiation and personalization. Individualization is a skill set and differentiation is a combination of differentiation and personalization.

Personalization includes:

- Goal setting
- Student choice
- Not about instruction, about student learning
- Student ownership in their learning
- Students know where they are at all times
- Teachers help guide.....facilitator
- Small groups and individual
- Provides immediate feedback to students

At the kindergarten level, the old system directed students to specific stations and now the students set goals and choose the station(s). Anyone interested in seeing this in process in action was invited to go to Becky Born's classroom at Meeme. This practice is also being done at Zielanis.

Dr. Blankenheim shared that this is also part of the Strategic Plan and it needs to come from the teachers. This is not something that needs buy in. The teachers

need to believe it in and be part of it from the ground up. Teachers who are not ready, should remove themselves from the process at this time. This is a mind set and cultural change.

Dr. Sixel shared that Personalized Learning is currently being used mostly in southeastern Wisconsin. Kiel and Howard Suamico are the only two northern districts. A team of teachers and administrators will be visiting Elmbook in January to see personalized learning in action. Elmbook has been using the concept for 2-3 years.

Members asked:

- How do we finance?
- Do we collaborate with other districts to reduce costs?
- Do we utilize train the trainers?

A big component of personalized learning is building relationships with students along with reinvigorating struggling teachers.

School Report Card

Dr. Sixel presented a brief overview of the School Report Card. The report card is provided once a year and is evaluated on four different components. This is the last year for the WKCE, the new test is called Badger. More important than the overall school score is closing the gap data. The district is making progress, but still not good enough. Progress takes time. We are responsible for growing students and when we see growth in students the gap will start to close. Only students who attend the full year are included in the data and that is why the district utilizes other testing measures to help teachers adjust as necessary.

Mrs. Mueller spoke to the fact that special ed students can learn. The biggest impact is the changes to instructional practices to support these students. The teachers need to understand that all students can learn. They use the standards to help close the gap. The state is in the process of changing the guidelines for closing the gap as statistics are not coming out as thought. There is a need to reduce the noise for better accuracy. Weights will be removed, so each year will be the same. Five years of data will be collected and they will begin looking at trendlines.

The School Report Card is well intentioned, but still a work in progress. There are some good tweaks happening, but more difficult for staff. The current report card is rated top in the nation for public schools. It is easy to understand and allows districts' to look deeper into their data. Mrs. Mueller referenced the need for other assessments district-wide for accountability and measurement. Where is KASD currently with testing.....Dr. Sixel feels too much testing and

Member Runge agrees. Mrs. Mueller shared that required assessments are not timely enough. Teachers are provided quick and efficient data with local assessments along with the use of day-to-day assessments. Discussed the need to measure assessments to make sure meeting the standards. Need to use test data for norms and criterion references.

Member Long inquired about past concerns relating to grades. He referenced the importance of students understanding the information vs passing the test. Its more about mastery of the concept and formative assessments. Dr. Sixel indicated that these issues are currently being addressed through personalized learning discussions. Briefly discussed the need for a standards-based report card at all levels to show growth and achievement of students.

Funding for PLC

The committee discussed the possibility of using fund balance to help support Professional Learning Communities. Carol Wirth, the district's financial advisor, indicated that we would be able to use fund balance, and now the question is how much do we invest in our staff for professional development. There is more enthusiasm when staff have the ability to attend conferences, etc. vs reading a book. We currently utilize some Title 2 funds for curriculum. The main focus, this year, is the Strategic Plan/Personalized Learning and Professional Learning Communities. Need to be able to measure and communicate the successes to the community, parents, board and staff, so everyone understands the reason/need for professional development. In order to move forward as a district, professionals need to continue learning new techniques.

Member Ladd expressed his concerns about using fund balance to provide professional development as it is an ongoing expense. Member Long is looking at it as a one-time investment to get everyone up to speed. Dr. Blankenheim expressed her interest in sending board members to a PLC Conference.

Member Runge inquired about a plan for PLC's. PLC's are tied to the Strategic Plan. Member Long expressed his desires for the full Board to support these initiatives. Dr. Sixel shared that staff needs to experience it. Discussed possible collaboration with other districts and Dr. Blankenheim explained that Hortonville, Brillion, and Mishicot are also doing Professional Learning Communities. What is the district willing to pay to get this done and at what point do we need to light the fire to get to the next level? All districts are in a competing environment and we need to determine what are our priorities. What is the impact to student learning? We need to focus on doing things well and what's best for all students. Everyone needs to get onboard if it's what's

best for students. Need to assess if successful and if not, move in a different direction.

Future Meetings

The next agenda will include a follow-up from January 23rd inservice, Elmbrook visit and math.

Next Meeting

Thursday, January 29th at 10:00 a.m.

Adjourn

On Motion of Member Runge seconded Member Ladd, the meeting adjourned at 12:11 p.m.