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Regional School District 13
Board of Education
Student Achievement Committee Minutes
September 7, 2016

Members Present: Kerrie Flanagan, Lucy Petrella, Phil Augur,
Absent: Nancy Boyle, Victor Friedrich
Others Present: Bob Moore, Kathy Veronesi, Linda Berry

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 PM.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.
Approval of Agenda: On a motion by Mr. Augur, second by Mrs. Petrella the agenda was approved.
Approval of Minutes: Approval of Minutes from May 18, 2016 was deferred to the next meeting.

PLC Overview: Dr. Veronesi provided an overview of the Professional Learning Community (PLC) protocol implemented throughout the District last year and continued in the current year. She gave an example of the PLC protocol recently employed by our Kindergarten teachers and described how this process affects student outcomes. The weekly PLC meetings provide an opportunity for our staff to collaborate, focusing on student progress and establishing actions designed to insure continuous improvement in student outcomes throughout the year.
At each meeting the team, begins by answering the following 4 questions:

1. What outcome are we targeting?
2. How will we know if we are achieving that outcome?
3. What data do we need to monitor our progress?
4. What actions must we take to correct course or improve outcomes?

21st Century Learning: 4C's: At the September Convocation, Dr. Veronesi identified the "Four C's" as the focus for this year's PLC targets. The 4 C's are:

1. Communication
2. Collaboration
3. Critical Thinking
4. Creativity

By strengthening instructional techniques and evaluating student engagement in terms of the "Four C's", we will improve student outcomes by reinforcing a shift from passive engagement to highly engaged students. Dr. Veronesi shared a video clip demonstrating highly engaged students in the classroom. The video also showed teacher mentoring and collaboration techniques as well as pointing out that the Four C's develop 21st century skills and are completely aligned with the Common Core.

Mrs. Petrella asked where Dr. Veronesi learned this technique and whether high performing schools are also using it. Dr. Veronesi responded that this approach is being employed not only by high performing schools in our state but also across the country.

Mrs. Petrella also asked if specific times have been set aside to allow teachers to consistently conduct PLC meetings. Dr. Veronesi responded "yes", that a commitment to provide adequate and consistent meeting time was made in concert with the implementation of the PLC process.

Mr. Augur left at 7:05 to attend the Brewster Parent meeting.

Outdoor Education/Science Specialist: Dr. Berry updated the Committee on the status of Outdoor Education and the development of our Science Specialist. With the retirement of our long time Outdoor Ed teacher Mrs. Lori Martin and the simultaneous requirements of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) provided by the State Board of Education,

changes will be made to our outdoor education classes. The Outdoor Education position was redefined to create a Science Specialist and was filled by Mrs. Susan Michael who will be working with science teachers at all levels to insure effective implementation of the new NGSS. All previous Outdoor Ed classes are being evaluated and will be moved, if appropriate to related subject matter categories. On-going outdoor Ed classes will be aligned with NGSS requirements. Some long standing outdoor education classes may not be continued if they do not fit with the NGSS or with other subjects. One example is the potential move of the previous outdoor education class on Indian Studies to Social Studies rather than being included in the science curriculum. Work is on-going and we are fortunate to have the expertise and enthusiasm of Mrs. Michael to lead our staff through this change.

District Learning Targets: Dr. Berry and the administrative team are developing District Learning Targets. The specific goals are focused on the areas of Literacy, Math and Science. All goals have been developed using the SMART goal strategy and will be coordinated at each level from the District level to each principal/school and to the teacher/classroom. The Target Goals have been developed at each of these levels and are currently under review by Administrators. These learning targets will indicate the performance level on various assessments that we are working towards this year. The final District Learning Targets will be presented to the full Board at the October 5th Board of Education meeting.

District Instructional Coaching Model: Dr. Berry updated the committee on the implementation of the District Instructional Coaching Model. With the approval in the 2016/17 budget, the Board approved the repurposing of certain existing "remedial" staff members to work directly with teachers to coach them in understanding of standards and instructional techniques. Additionally the Board approved an additional Math specialist position which was filled by Mrs. Noelle Durkin, former grade 4 classroom teacher. Dr. Berry has worked to develop professional development sessions with these specialists. Six coaching cohort workshops are underway way to emphasize skills in the areas of collaboration, providing feedback and managing change, to name a few. The purpose of these workshops and specifically Subject Matte Specialists is to improve instructional effectiveness for our teachers at all levels.

SBAC Results: The District has received district level results of the most recent SBAC testing. Dr. Veronesi and Dr. Berry discussed the protocol used for examining data (copy attached). This protocol was used in examining this high level data and is employed throughout the District to interpret and respond to these results. The protocol will also be used when the detail SBAC results are made available by the State Board of Education. Also attached to these minutes are the following documents:

1. Math and ELA results for 2015 and 2016 for Cohort Achievement and DRG Comparison.
2. 2016 ELA and Math SBAC: Overall Achievement Distribution
3. SBAC 2016 Data for DRG C – ELA
4. SBAC 2016 Data for DRG C – MATH

Public Comment: There was no public comment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07PM on a motion by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mrs. Petrella.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mrs. Kerrie Flanagan