

Hillsdale Local Schools Strategic Planning Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2016

Opening:

The February 8, 2016 meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee was called to order at 6:30 by Superintendent Steve Dickerson.

Present:

Steve Dickerson, Tom Selvage, Vella King, Abbey Hoffman, Jenny Stump, Sondra Hays, Brad Hays, Kevin Reidy, Tom Williams, Todd Grover, Jessica Murawski, Lisa Burgess, Heidi Yeater, Jason Chio, Jackie Holmes, Nick Atterholt and Tim Keib were in attendance.

Mr. Dickerson questioned the progress of goals of each committee and whether we wanted multiple goals or do we want one goal for each year and each committee. He stated we should determine a similar format for all committees.

Curriculum:

The curriculum committee determined goals for the future:

2015-2016 School Year

- Restore Honors English classes at the high school
- Create a College Credit Plus pathway at the high school
- Restore the Ag Business classes at the high school
- Begin offering an Agriculture course at the middle school
- Restore French language classes at the high school using an electronic curriculum
- Employ a full-time district computer technician

2016-2017 School Year

- Add Grade 7 music instruction at the middle school
- Add Grade 8 art at the middle school
- Hire a part-time elementary music teacher to provide our 2 music teachers with additional scheduling time at the middle school and the high school
- Restore elective Family and Consumer Science courses at the high school
- Provide Title I reading instruction at the middle school
- Expand a vocational pathway for pre-veterinary or greenhouse management based on student interest.
- Add STEM instruction in the middle school in engineering and computer programming.

2017-2018 School Year

- Add a curriculum director/testing coordinator

2018-2019 School Year

- Add an industry certification program in ?????? at the high school. This program would not duplicate offerings in Agriculture and would not duplicate Career Center offerings.
- Provide Family and Consumer Science instruction in cooking and sewing at the middle school for every student.
- Provide reading instruction at the high school to incoming ninth graders who have reading difficulties (Horizons).

2019-2020 School Year

- Add STEM instruction at the elementary school, perhaps using Project Lead the Way.

2020-2021 School Year

- Increase Agriculture instruction at the middle school to include the full AFNR curriculum between grades 7 and 8.
- Provide library media instruction at grades K-8 by a certified teacher.
- Provide computer instruction at grades K-8 by a certified teacher.
- Provide foreign language instruction at the middle school.

Other ideas

- Grade level reorganization and pooling of staff in one facility to reduce teacher travel time.
- Resources for mental health issues

Facilities/Transportation/Technology:

The initial evaluation of the middle school by the consultant showed no immediate issues but a higher level inspection will be scheduled at a later date.

A final bid from the roofing manufacturer (Garling) will be ready by March.

Gifted/Special Needs Students:

The committee will prepare a list of professional development ideas to the Academic Council before their next meeting on February 24th. Some suggestions are:

Serving of Gifted – Differentiating of Students

Autism and Asperger's – How to work with and the differences. What works for some and not others?

Responsibility for IEPs for all parties, General Education teachers, Special Needs teachers and parents.

Functional behavioral assessment – cause behind the behaviors.

504 and IEP and accommodations

Dyslexia and Reading Issues – K-6 reading issues.

7-12 Transitional planning – help with job applications and resumes

Anxiety and Depression – Mental Health issues/signs

5 Year goal list

- Full time Special Education Director with practical experience
- Curriculum Director
- Structured Literacy Program / Reading Coordinator
- Multi-Handicap Classrooms
- School Nurse
- Transition teams on IEP – productive at graduation

Pastor Grover mentioned to this group that he has an upcoming meeting with the representative of an organization to provide respite to parents.

Guidance/Community

The career day held at the middle school was very productive. How can we support career advising beyond college at the school? Career coaches could be provided for every district in 2 counties but how would it be paid for? Melissa Martin of the Ashland Chamber of Commerce is working on initiatives to work with schools and get the corporate community talking with schools regarding their needs better.

Finance/Communication:

The finance committee has not been active lately but will discuss goals once the new school treasurer is in place.

There was a timeline for the new website presented but the committee felt it was incomplete because it did not have responsibilities and dates at each step and there was not point yet for community involvement. The committee tried to create a list of users of the website: Parents, Pre-school, Teachers, Athletics, Booster Groups, Senior Citizens, Secretaries (what information are they asked for the most) and other community members. What is the sustainability of the current community Facebook page and the new website? Which is the source of truth?

Some other considerations for the new website would include posting a better error message for broken links and possibly an email to the web master to notify.

The need for a monthly newsletter of district information beyond the quarterly newsletter of activities and happenings currently produced. What would this newsletter contain, how would it be formatted and distributed, what would the cost involved be, etc.?

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Next Meeting: March 7th @ 6:30 pm in the Hillsdale High School library.

Please join us in planning the future of our community and school district. There is a committee for everybody's gifts to be utilized.