

Hillsdale Local Schools Strategic Planning Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2015

Opening:

The June 8, 2015 meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee was called to order at 6:30 by Superintendent Steve Dickerson.

Present:

Steve Dickerson, Margie Travis, Tom Selvage, Vella King, Jackie Holmes, John Holmes, Margaret Coleman, Pam Potter, Bruce Dalton, Jenny Stump, Sondra Hays, Renee Burnison, Melissa Abrams, Tim Keib, Kevin Reidy and Jason Chio were in attendance.

Mr. Dickerson had handouts of the 2000 Continuous Improvement Plan that triggered Strategic Planning in many communities.

The committee broke into subcommittees and a summary of discussions of each committee was submitted at the end of the meeting.

Guidance:

Steve Dickerson reported that the after school program held their trial version at the end of the school year and 13 students participated. All felt it was a very successful trial and the group working on this piece of the guidance subcommittee met recently to plan for next school year's schedule. They will be running 3 – 10 weeks sessions and a year-end session of 7 weeks.

Facilities/Technology

Kevin Reidy, Bruce Dalton, Jason Chio, Renee Burnison and Melissa Abrams

Technology:

Wiring for the wireless is on schedule.

Facilities:

Used desk were purchased from Crestview and 25 will be used at the high school and 25 at the middle school. There could be more purchases coming from the sales at Ashland schools. There will be seating to replace the things such as overturned 5 gallon buckets that elementary teachers are using for the computer area. Tim Keib asked if there are file cabinets available at the sale on Friday to consider purchase some for middle school if the condition and price are good.

The group went into the science classrooms with Renee and Melissa so they could explain how the slanted desk were not the best to use in those classrooms where experiments were conducted.

The committee is still working on a bus maintenance audit to determine how much we are spending on our aging bus fleet.

Finance/Communications

Margie Travis, Margaret Coleman, Vella King

Finance:

Margie has the 5 year forecast ready and will be presented to the board to approve on June 9th. She went over some of the assumptions that were used to create the 5 year forecast. Margie mentioned that based on the recommendations by the curriculum committee of Strategic Planning, there might be 3.62 educators added in fiscal years 2017-2019. She also mentioned that textbook purchases recommended by the same committee and determined by the teachers would be purchased along with materials and supplies that teachers have not had purchased for them for a number of years. Margie also told the committee that in the past, the state had contributed funds to purchase vehicles such as buses and vans but that was no longer happening.

Communications:

The group is preparing a document that can be used to document each levy in the district that is still collecting funds. It was felt that the original date of passage, the number of mills the levy was passed, the type of levy (general funds vs permanent improvement, continuous versus renewal) and how many mills the levy is currently collecting should be information included. They felt it would be a good communication tool to have on the district website along with one that explained why levies don't collect the same millage after they are passed, the differences between inside millage and outside millage and other information that voters may not understand.

Curriculum:

Tom Salvage, Sondra Hays, Jenny Stump, Tim Keib

This committee presented an extensive 5 year plan at the last meeting so they are continuing to look at future needs in personnel and opportunities for students. Tim Keib mentioned that if it was known that we would be adding opportunities that required additional staff, that as far as possible, it would be best to post the position early in the calendar year so the master schedules could be completed by March.

Special Needs/Gifted Student Opportunities:

This was the first time for this subcommittee to meet as a group.

Jackie Holmes, John Holmes and Pam Potter

John compiled a list of issues relative to both gifted and special education topics, based upon recent conversations with other Hillsdale parents. The subcommittee reviewed and consolidated this list into the following categories. It should be noted that concerns expressed may represent

individual situations rather than district-wide areas of need. In addition, items may not represent all committee members' beliefs, but are those that were presented to us. Additional data should be obtained for the purpose of prioritizing and addressing areas of need in a district action plan.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS – STAFF

1. Sensitivity training addressing the words we use about students with disabilities and gifted, as well as our behaviors and beliefs (all staff, including bus drivers)
2. Embracing practices and beliefs reflecting that students who reside in the district are ALL our students, no teacher/staff group is exempt from the need to address diverse student needs
3. Instructional practices that support multiple learning styles and needs (differentiation), especially for the kinesthetic learner (need more hands-on, experiential learning and opportunities for expression and demonstration of learning)
4. Identification and understanding multiple learning styles (visual, kinesthetic, auditory)
5. Understanding the spectrum and diversity of learning potential, gifted, average, and cognitively disabled. While each student has limitations and needs, all have the potential to learn when given high quality instruction, support and belief in their capabilities
6. Identification of gifted and twice exceptional students (gifted and learning disabled)
7. IAT process
8. Special Education topics including:
 - a. IEPs and the general education teacher's role in both development and implementation
 - b. Accommodations and Modifications – what is the difference and why they are required
 - c. Understanding the Evaluation Team Report and decisions about eligibility; what is the role and responsibility of general education staff
 - d. Transition planning and what is available for students with disabilities after high school (especially for Intervention Specialists and Guidance staff)
9. STEM program
10. Related Services (OT, PT, Speech, Counseling, Transportation, Training, Medical, etc.):
 - a. How the expertise of related services staff can help teachers in the classroom, not just for students with identified disabilities, but for all students
 - b. How these services support students and learning

c. Consideration of ALL related service needs, not just Speech, OT and PT

11. Bus drivers needs training about student diversity and what their role is

12. Assistive Technology resources, including how to use AT daily and in evaluations/testing

13. Dyslexia and reading instruction

DISTRICT NEEDS and RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Sensitivity training addressing individuals with disabilities, gifted, anyone who is thought of as different for the entire community (parents, public officials, businesses, school staff, and especially students)

B. Transition Specialist

C. Assistive Technology Resources and possibility a designated staff member with expertise

D. Data driven and appropriate practices for identification of Gifted K-12

E. Social groups/Peer groups at every building that encourage diverse membership (ALL students, not just those who traditionally participate);

F. Develop specific courses within the high school that are more experiential and hands-on (one section of each required course that is more hands-on)

G. Opportunities for students with more moderate or intense disabilities within the district, classes as well as extracurricular (alternatives to sending Hillsdale students to other districts)

H. Use of existing student groups such as the Honor Society and Student Counsel for mentoring and tutoring

I. Integration of students with disabilities into the community, including transition experiences while in high school and employment opportunities after graduation

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:00 after a summary of each subcommittee's work was presented to the entire committee.

Next Meeting: August 10th, 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.