

Hillsdale Local Schools Strategic Planning Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2016

Opening:

The March 7, 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, Jenny Stump, Sondra Hays, Brad Hays, Kevin Reidy, Tom Williams, Jackie Holmes, Dave Moore, Rick Blahnik, Margaret Coleman and Bob Vinsack were in attendance.

Tom Williams presented his electronic report regarding where/what the Strategic Planning Committee has accomplished to date. He said it was an initial version and that the committee could choose to leave it with just bulleted items or add more detail to each bullet item. The presentation started with the Motto, Vision and Mission of the district and then had a section for each subcommittee. It was noted that the Finance work did not include the levy timelines and terminology that had been accomplished. It was stated that this was a work in development and always would continue to develop. Each committee should determine a representative to sit on a subcommittee that would be responsible to get this up to date including a list of accomplishments by date, goals for 5 years and whether items listed were funded or unfunded at this point.

Curriculum:

The curriculum committee goals were revised:

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 current music teachers with additional scheduling time at the middle school and 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 experiential learning in woods, metals, plastics, and manufacturing technology.
- Add STEM instruction at the middle school in engineering and computer programming.
- Fully implement Career Connections at grades 6-12.

2017-2018 School Year

- Add a curriculum director/testing coordinator.

2018-2019 School Year

- Add an industry certification program in manufacturing or engineering technologies or another area 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.
- Provide library media instruction at grades K-8 by a certified teacher.
- Provide computer instruction at grades K-8 by a certified teacher. (EasyTech expires at the end of 2018-2019 school year.)

2020-2021 School Year

- Increase Agriculture instruction at the middle school to include the full AFNR curriculum between grades 7 and 8.
- 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
- Lions Quest program
- Add more elective arts options at the high school

Why do we need a curriculum director/testing coordinator?

- Let guidance counselors be counselors
- Assist classroom teachers in creating engaging student learning experiences
- Provide professional development assistance
- Direct curriculum alignment
- Coordinate materials selection
- Facilitate transitions from elementary to middle school and middle school to high school
- Address mental health and wellness for staff
- Work on parental engagement
- Facilitate implementation of programs such as: Lions Quest, Project Lead the Way, etc.

Tom Selvage will be this committee's representative on the Presentation subcommittee.

Gifted/Special Needs Students:

There were no members present for this subcommittee.

Guidance/Community

There were no members present for this subcommittee.

Finance/Communication:

Financial items were discussed with new treasurer, Rick Blahnik. It was determined that we should ask the board of education to adopt a policy that we strive to not deficit spend for operational costs realizing that there are times we will have to deficit spend for maintenance issues that have not been attended to yet. A good example is the high school roof that is cheaper to do all at once rather than piecemeal over several years. The bid for the roof is not complete yet. The committee would like to have very intentional decisions based on proven facts.

It was also questioned as to whether or not it would be possible to get comparative data from surrounding/comparable districts on the cost per pupil for instructional costs and cost per pupil for facilities. Also, the committee would like to see tax rates for a \$100,000 home with the same income for comparable districts

Financial reports were also discussed as far as what is the best practices for financial data to be formatted for ease of understanding. Rick has been working on a report of line items by amount budgeted and then where each line is in relation to the amount spent.

On the communications end, it was discussed we need a process of collecting ALL stakeholders opinions so any weaknesses can be identified before they are received as a complaint. Work is continuing on the redo of the website. Mr. Dickerson and Dave Moore are going to visit with Birdeye in Wooster on the work completed to date.

Margaret Coleman, the Assistant Director of Digital Marketing at Certified Angus Beef, volunteered to offer any help needed on the project and will be attending this meeting also.

Brad Hays will be this committee's representative on the Presentation subcommittee.

Facilities/Transportation/Technology:

There was no discussion of facilities or transportation.

It was discussed what is next on the Technology horizon.

- Smart Board replacement with new touch screen televisions as the size of the televisions get larger and the quality better as years go on
- Incorporate more technology into lesson plans
- How do we develop those instructors that are not currently efficient in technology?
- Investigate using BridgeContest.org that is an online bridge building completion in the classrooms
- Utilize Hour of Code in each age/class
- Develop something that each age is known for and develops (e.g. BridgeContests.org for the 6th grade.
- How do we judge what students have learned from EasyTech?
- Professional Development ideas for technology.

Tom Williams will be this committee's representative on the Presentation subcommittee.

Next Meeting: April 11th @ 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 everyone's gifts to be utilized.