

## Hillsdale Local Schools Strategic Planning Committee

### Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2016

#### Opening:

The January 11, 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, Mark Hoffman, Bruce Dalton, Jenny Stump, Sondra Hays, Brad Hays, Kevin Reidy, Dave Moore, Tom Williams, Todd Grover, Margaret Coleman, Dion Bliss, Mark Lange, Jessica Murawski, Pam Potter, Lisa Burgess, Nick Atterholt and Tim Keib were in attendance.

Mr. Dickerson reported an architectural company will be contacted to evaluate the middle school and that the after school program has received \$2,000.00 from Ashland Trinity Lutheran Church to help support their program.

#### 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
- Add a part-time Agri-Science licensed person at the high school

##### 2017-2018 School Year and Beyond

- Add an industry certification program at the high school. This program would not duplicate offerings in Agriculture and would not duplicate Career Center offerings.
- Add STEM instruction at the middle school

- Provide Family and Consumer Science instruction in cooking and sewing at the middle school
- 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
- Add STEM instruction at the elementary school, perhaps using Project Lead the Way
- Provide reading instruction at the high school to incoming ninth graders who have reading difficulties
- Provide foreign language instruction at the middle school
- Add a curriculum director/testing coordinator

### **Facilities/Transportation/Technology:**

The committee created 11 recommendations and prioritized them.

- 1.) Middle School inspection
- 2.) Plan for Timeline for Transportation fleet replacement including buses and vans
- 3.) High School Roof replacement
- 4.) Outside Lighting at the Elementary School
- 5.) Repair outside steps at Elementary School and High School
- 6.) Duct Work Cleaning
- 7.) Utility Tractor Replacement
- 8.) Repointing brick on Elementary School
- 9.) Repointing brick on Middle School
- 10.) Replacement schedule of other resources as needed.
- 11.) New Electronic Signs for High School and Elementary School (using donors or class projects.)

The above recommendations and prioritizations were reported at the December meeting.

Tom Williams reported that the district has 400 new computer devices with a total of 750 now in the district. Of those, 650-675 are being used by the students. The WI-FI is up and running properly in in three buildings. The computers will have to be checked to make sure that all software has been loaded on each.

### **Finance/Communication:**

There was a question if streaming events such as board meetings, etc. could be added to the website one it is redesigned.

There is no timeline yet for the completion of the redesign but it will be handled in 3 stages. The committee would still like to see a project timeline to ensure project needs are on track. The three stages given the committee by Dave Moore are:

- 1.) Create a mobile-friendly framework by utilizing a “cookbook” created by Tri-County Service Center with information provided by the administrative team of the superintendent and the building principals.
- 2.) Enhance stage 1 by adding the wants/requirements of the staff (teachers, treasurer’s office, cafeteria and busing staff, maintenance staff, etc.)
- 3.) Include other stakeholders such as community members, booster groups, etc. before the final rollout beginning with the 2016-2017 school year.

The committee was projecting that 25-50% of the district household may have students in the district and would be receiving a printed copy of the quarterly newsletter. The letter is printed compliments of BookMasters. The committee would like to ensure that each household receives a copy without receiving duplicates. Some families receive the newsletter electronically via website postings which is linked to an email address but the web redesign would require mailing address entered to request the electronic version so postage would not be incurred for these households.

The committee felt that the superintendent page is doing a great job of public relations stories but though there should be more operational information included.

### **Gifted/Special Needs Students:**

Questions regarding individual aides - use, training, and expertise

The committee talked about the aides and why they were hired - did they have any training or experience and if we are not actually using aides unnecessarily; not only because of a cost issues, but questioned if it is the best practice for kids later on.

Investigate the use of student information binders or files to pass information from year to year - ALL students

The committee would like to talk to Paula (and possibly to Academic Council) regarding Professional Development involving the General Education staff ownership and responsibilities under the IEP process.

Investigate new diagnostic testing and instructional software (iReady).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

**Next Meeting:** February 8<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm in the Hillsdale High School library. Beginning with the March meeting, the Strategic Planning meeting will always be scheduled the Monday night prior to the school board meeting.

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