

## Hillsdale Local Schools Strategic Planning Committee

### Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2016

#### Opening:

The June 13, 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, Brad Hays, Sondra Hays, Abbey Hoffman, Todd Grover, Dave Moore, Rick Blahnik, Brian Bond, Kevin Reidy, Tom Williams and Paula Healy were in attendance.

Steve Dickerson opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. He reported that he would like to see a published document in place by December of 2016 noting that the document will ALWAYS be a work in progress. Pastor Todd Grover gave a report on the Connections After School Program and some of the activities they are doing with the students. Tom Selvage reported that the subcommittee preparing the final report is making progress on the overall report but the committee reports need to be finalized so the entire group can vote on and the document shared.

#### Curriculum:

Paula Healy was a guest of the Curriculum subcommittee and discussed special needs of our students.

## Strategic Planning Curriculum Committee Goals

*\*Italics indicate items that have been added/revised since last meeting.*

#### 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 targeted Tier III reading intervention at the middle school.

- Expand a vocational pathway for experiential learning in woods, metals, plastics, and manufacturing technology.
- Add STEAM instruction at the middle school in engineering and computer programming.
- Fully implement Career Connections at grades 6-12.
- Address special education issues: communication, coverage, professional development

### **2017-2018 School Year**

- Add a curriculum director/testing coordinator.
- Improve gifted offerings/services
- Increase STEM offerings at the high school

### **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.

- Assistance with teacher/principal evaluations
- *Complexity of testing requirements*
- *Assist with alternate assessments for special education*
- *Work with the Special Education Director*

### **Improved Gifted Services/Offerings**

- Assist EMIS coordinator in identifying who is receiving gifted services
- Classes for gifted students in areas of giftedness starting at grade 3
- Differentiation for gifted students
- Other services

### **Special Education**

- *Crisis Prevention Instruction (CPI) 3 day training at Tri-County ESC for teachers and bus drivers*
- *Progress Book Special Services training for teachers*
- *Special Education Director to develop a priority list for professional development for special education teachers and general education teachers*
- *Need transition meetings when students move from elementary to middle school and middle school to high school*
- *Investigate new diagnostic testing and instructional software (iReady)—“tech Tuesday” to explore new software*
- *Autism and Asperger’s—how to work with and the differences—training for special education and general education teachers*
- *Functional behavioral assessments—causes behind behaviors—need training for principals and special education teachers*
- *504 and IEP accommodations—need meetings/training for special education and general education teachers*
- *Professional development on co-teaching and shared planning time for co-teachers*
- *Dyslexia and reading issues—K-6 reading issues*
- *7-12 transitional planning—help with job applications and resumes and job skills; course needed at the high school for this*
- *Life skills course for special education students at the high school*
- *Anxiety and depression—mental health issues/signs—contacts needed outside the district for addressing these issues*
- *Full time special education director with practical experience*
- *Reading/literacy: coordination between buildings, Horizons reading program currently used at middle school add this to elementary school, reading intervention class at the high school*
- *Multi-handicap classrooms; classroom for high needs students in district*
- *Resource room for 2017-2018*
- *Develop a special education policies and procedures manual/checklist for Hillsdale Local Schools which includes: identification, referral, testing, and so on*

Tom Selvage was appointed to represent the curriculum committee on a subcommittee of Strategic Planning charged with developing an overall format and presentation of a strategic plan

Committee agreed that gifted, special education, and professional development should be added onto the committee’s plans.

*Paula Healy attended the meeting on 6/13/2016. Numerous revisions/updates were made to the ideas regarding Special Education. Andrew Lewellen will attend the September 12 meeting to discuss gifted education.*

## **Finance:**

The subcommittee asked the question, "What do people want to see in the financials?". Discussion included the following: Per student expenditures, Levy Information including what costs are and what we are spending money on, Trends with narratives to accompany and projected expenses.

## **Communications/Community Relations**

Dave Moore handed out a document with the meanings of the google analytic columns in his report from May. There is still a lot of concern about not just the layout but more on the content and how testing will be done with all those involved, not just the staff but the community as well.

## **Facilities:**

The committee will have a 5 year plan ready for all the facilities by year-end.

## **Transportation:**

A 10 year bus fleet replacement schedule has been submitted. This includes whether funds come from general fund and/or permanent improvement funds.

## **Technology:**

Schedules for professional development will be tied into technology development.

**Next Meeting:** September 12<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm. Andrew Lewellen will discuss gifted needs with the curriculum subcommittee.

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