

Minutes of the Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment Meeting

North Boone Community Unit School District #200

Held at North Boone District Office

6248 North Boone School Road

Poplar Grove, IL 61065

Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at 3:45 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 3:45 p.m. by Mr. Brian Haselhorst. The following Committee members were present: Tami Doetch, Dr. Greenlee, Kelly Hanaman, Joe Haverly, Molly Lilja, Melissa Nachampassack, Jamie Pearce, Carl Rudy, Liz Saveley, Tracy Schabacker, Heather Walsh and Mike Winebrenner. Absent: Maria Duarte, Jake Hubert, Mary Piskie and Azusena Yaro. Also Present: Cheryl Gieseke, Mathilde Gleizes, Dawn Rolander and Jerry Rudolph.

AUDIENCE TO VISITORS

(None)

CURRICULUM UPDATE

Mrs. Lilja provided a handout showing the Curriculum Development Plan. She noted Ms. Gieseke will be working on the math and science curriculum while she begins work on ELA.

LONG TERM TECHNOLOGY PLAN

Dr. Greenlee said we had been trying to refresh and grow devices. Mrs. Hanaman asked what was prohibiting us in getting technology like South Beloit, and Dr. Greenlee responded stating they had gone to bonding. He noted we were trying to pay for our technology as we go, and not try to bond as our tax rates were the highest in the area, but noting our rates were reduced from 8.5% to 7.8%. Mr. Haverly said he wished to be progressive but fiscally responsible. He posed several questions including what technology we would need to function as a District and what we would need to grow devices. Mr. Haverly desired a well thought out, well communicated, long-term technology plan, and wanted to ensure we weren't just jumping on the technology bandwagon, when there are needs for Math Interventionists and Reading Specialists, etc.

Mrs. Saveley didn't feel we were jumping on the bandwagon and stated the reality of this situation is the country has changed to common core standards. She shared as soon as third grade, there are actual technology standards where students have to be able to manipulate technology, and mentioned she is currently teaching with 20 year old devices. Mrs. Saveley feels it is part of our responsibility to educate students by helping them navigate technology in a safe and responsible manner. Mr. Haverly's concerns were having no objectives or outcomes on the proposed technology purchase, and expanded on electronic lunch money programs, LMS, registration and their abilities to tie in together. Mr. Haselhorst asked where we would like to end up, and Mrs. Hanaman replied that students need to come to the MS with computer skills, and that math, science, reading and language are all technology driven. Mrs. Saveley added that almost every curriculum they are looking at has a technology component which is almost vital to implementing that

curriculum. She feels student learning is enhanced by technology. Mrs. Hanaman provided examples of how important technology is with iScience, including virtual labs, quizzes, vocab review and videos to reinforce concepts. Mr. Winebrenner spoke about the Mastery Manager program which provides instant feedback, but with a maximum of 50 minutes of class time, if each student does not have a device, the teacher has to plan well in advance to go to the computer lab. Mrs. Rolander, HS math teacher said they needed touch screen Chromebooks and 1:1 to work with their new math curriculum. She feels it is important to expose students to the academic language, and become accustomed to looking up answers. Mrs. Rolander said she was very appreciative of the great, new math curriculum and wished to keep the momentum building. Mrs. Doetch expressed the continued need for Reading Specialists and provided the Committee with an article written by our former President regarding how digital technology will change human thinking, sharing that both technology and Reading Specialists were important. Mr. Haverly noted his only hesitation with the technology purchase was there were no objective or outcomes, and it seemed like there was no plan. He suggested that would be easily allayed by enough rationale, and presentations to the Board by different groups. Mrs. Hanaman felt Mr. Haverly was asking too much and said the teachers were tired of the multiple presentations asking the Board to purchase computers. She said the Board knows the value of computers, understands they have technology in the classroom, and that we need to catch up to the surrounding districts. Mrs. Hanaman felt \$120K in technology purchases in a \$16M budget was not an enormous amount of money. She suggested using the \$400K in state money for technology and Reading Specialists. Mr. Rudy said it would be helpful for him to see evidence of baseline need in order to understand the necessity, how teachers are implementing technology, and mentioned he had not yet seen evidence of a universal plan. He did not want to cause undue burden to teachers, but suggested Administration come to the Board with a baseline set of needs. Mrs. Lilja suggested surveying stakeholders to ensure we are getting all the information we need. While there is already an annual technology teacher survey in place, Mr. Rudolph will start working on additional questions.

CLASS GRADE SPLITS VS. TECHNOLOGY PURCHASES

At the September 4, 2018 Business Committee meeting, Mr. Mulholland had stated he had fielded concerns about the current multi-grade elementary classrooms. At that meeting Dr. Greenlee said we currently have grades 1/2 and 3/4 classes at CES and MES, and a 1/2 class at PGE, and without that, the District would need to add five more elementary sections which would cost \$275K in extra salaries per year.

Mrs. Saveley stated for 13 of the 17 years of teaching, she has taught multi-grade, which means multi-ability. She said every classroom is a multi-ability classroom, and her philosophy is to take students where they are at and help them to grow. Mrs. Hanaman said if we don't have multi-grade classrooms, we won't have enough students to sustain the extra teachers. Dr. Greenlee asked if growing teachers to avoid multi-grade classrooms was fiscally responsible. Mrs. Saveley said every classroom has students that are all different levels, and students learn at different paces. Mrs. Doetch said some parents had complained their students were getting the same curriculum two years in a row. Mr. Haverly said Board decisions should be toward student achievement, and questioned if smaller classes or more computers would best address that goal. The Committee discussed offering support and tools to teachers in multi-grade classrooms and improving communication to parents.

AP COURSES

At the September 4, 2018 Business Committee meeting, Dr. Greenlee provided an AP class update showing the number of students in each class. He stated due to economics, AP classes are only held if there are a minimum of 15 students enrolled, but noted at times there can be withdrawals based on schedule conflicts and student choices to drop the class. Mr. Haverly had asked to keep this discussion going. Dr. Greenlee shared that previous practice was to have 15 students enrolled to hold an AP class. Mrs. Walsh stated even non-AP high school courses are not held if 15 students aren't enrolled.

OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Mr. Haverly recapped the technology concern, and asked what the immediate need was for replacement of devices, and that he wanted a lot of justification for maintaining and growing technology.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(none)

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Submitted by:

Brian Haselhorst, Chair