

MINUTES

North Boone Community Unit School District #200

Board C.I.A. Committee: Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment

North Boone District Office, 6248 North Boone School Road, Poplar Grove, IL 61065

March 15, 2012 at 3:30 PM

Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Glen Gratz at 3:35 p.m. The following Committee members were present: Dr. Steven Baule, Mrs. Lindsay Abbeduto, Dr. Bridget Belcastro, Mrs. Kristi Crawford, Mr. Collin Crull, Ms. Rachel Eglite, Mrs. Kristi Franseen, Mr. Jacob Hubert, Mrs. Melissa Nachampassack and Ms. Tracy Schabacker.

Absent were Mrs. Jeannine DuBois, Mrs. Maureen Glickenger, Ms. Jeanine Heck, Mrs. Maria Nino, Dr. Sharon Olds, Ms. Elizabeth Stout and Mrs. Christine Troller.

Audience to Visitors

(No Audience to Visitors)

Updates: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Items

Update regarding math pilot at K-5/6:

The Committee reviewed the sequence of students learning and applying “Key Shifts in CCSS Mathematics.” Mrs. Crawford explained that the goal of this math series is to narrow the topics so students can focus more deeply on the math concepts. However, CCSS Mathematics needs to begin in kindergarten in order to really make changes. This series also has good resources for teachers as well as parents. The schools are now in the 3rd week of piloting this series and will finish by March 23rd. After spring break, the 2nd series will be piloted through April 27th.

Each teacher involved in piloting these math series have been given an evaluation form to complete. Mrs. Crawford is also sending out an e-mail to these teachers for their comments and to answer any questions they might have. Two meetings will be held at Poplar Grove Elementary at 3:15 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21 and Wednesday, April 25.

Mrs. Crawford commented that the teachers are seeing the depth of Common Core math that was missing with Saxon Math. Everyone in K-6 who is on the Math Committee is piloting these series.

Mrs. Abbeduto informed the Committee that the Connected Math series has been adopted for the 7th and 8th grades but not yet for the 6th grade. She and Dr. Belcastro anticipated adopting Connected Math for 6th grade to create a better transition into 7th and 8th grade math. There is also a need for accelerated math at the 5th grade level. There are no textbooks for Math 1, 2, 3 and they do not have all the resources needed for Connected Math. Upper Elementary will have an enhanced self-contained classroom model for 6th grade next year by having subject area classrooms for math and language arts.

Recommendations regarding grading scales from the Grading Committee:

Mr. Hubert stated that the results of the Grading Committee's survey was that 64.6% of the community preferred a 1-4 grading scale. It was generally felt that the 3-point scale left too broad a spectrum for the 2 rating. The Math Committee recommended a 1-4 grading scale for K-4 schools with the following explanation:

- 1 = Frequent support needed
- 2 = Skills developing but not yet at grade level
- 3 = Meets grade level expectations
- 4 = Consistently exceeds grade level expectations

Research shows that a 1-4 grading scale is much more preferable to the ABC grading scale. The Committee's consensus was to recommend the 1-4 grading scale to the Board.

The survey also indicated that 69.8% of the community preferred the traditional 10 point grading scale. Only a couple districts in the conference have the 7 point grading scale and all the remaining districts are on the 10 point scale. Our district's current scale has a higher grade minimum. However, there is no research to support either grading scale.

A third grading scale would be an ABCF grading scale. This would align with a four-point Standards Based report card and was recommended by the Grading Policy Committee and staff. The goal is to grade less on homework and more on performance. The ABCF grading scale would equal the following number grades:

- A = 90-100
- B = 80-90
- C = 70-80
- F = 0-69

Mr. Hubert explained that the Grading Committee also reviewed the traditional ABCDF grading scale, but after hearing the reasons for the ABCF grading scale, everyone agreed that it made better sense and is the recommendation of the Grading Committee.

Recommendations regarding eligibility from the Grading Committee:

Dr. Belcastro stated that current middle school eligibility requires that students pass all classes, no study halls and one exploratory class. The majority of the committee recommended that the same eligibility requirement remain. However, they did suggest that the consequences be modified. Presently, students can be ineligible for only two weeks before being put off the team. It was recommended that the consequences be modified as follows:

- 1st week – Warning
- 2nd week – Practice but no game (attend homework club)
- 3rd week – No practice, no game (attend homework club)
- 4th week – Attend homework club

If after the 4th week the student has brought his/her grade up, that student will again be eligible. If the student does not attend homework club, that student will be removed from the team.

Mr. Hubert added that high school eligibility would be the same but, with their grading scale, the student would effectively have to have a C. Clarification – within a season, a student with a 3rd

week of ineligibility goes to the 3rd week, even if they had been on step 2 and returned to eligibility.

Dr. Belcastro informed the Committee that they had reviewed other schools' promotion policies as neither staff nor the community support the present promotion policy in which students can use "points" toward promotion. The Grading Policy Committee recommended that in order for a middle school student to be promoted on to high school, that student must pass six core classes, including PE. If a student fails a class, that student must take summer school and successfully pass all failing areas. If a student fails three or more core classes, that student will be retained.

Potential assessment agreement with ECRA

Dr. Baule distributed information regarding the ECRA Group, a research, monitoring and reporting system related to student achievement. ISBE has announced that by 2016 evaluation of teachers will be based on student performance. This specialized group has developed a system that is statistically above reproach. Their assessment data also incorporates other necessary information such as students' IEPs, ethnicity, poverty rate, etc. ISBE has also stated that the new principal evaluation has to be implemented this fall. He suggested that the ECRA Group be asked to speak to the Board and other interested individuals in early April.

Other Discussion Items

(No Other Discussion Items)

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Glen Gratz, Chairperson