

Three Rivers School Board of Directors met for a Board Workshop, Monday, November 3, 2008, at the District Administrative Office, 8550 New Hope Road, Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon at 7:00 PM.

PRESENT: Dave Strahan, Chairperson of the Board, Zone IV  
Leslie Meier, Vice-Chairperson of the Board, Zone III  
Jim Weaver, Member of the Board, Zone II  
Robert Litak, Member of the Board, Zone I  
Dan Huber-Kantola, Superintendent-Clerk  
John George, Director of Secondary Education

ABSENT: Phil Stephens, Member of the Board, Zone V

Also Present: Michael Schaefer/Asst. Principal, Hidden Valley High School, Dennis Misner/Principal, Hidden Valley High School, Patty Dickens-Turk/Asst. Principal, Illinois Valley High School, JoAnn Bethany/Principal, Illinois Valley High School, Linda Huggle/Principal, North Valley High School and Shelly Berry/Recording Secretary

Chairperson Strahan called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. The following items were discussed in a workshop setting:

Each principal gave a brief summary of as to how the first year went with the implementation of the new trimester system:

#### **Dennis Misner - HVHS**

- Less hectic pace; calmer place to work and calmer place to learn.
- Student perception – was generally positive. The conflicts that existed were in regards to scheduling for higher-end students.
- Teacher-embraced student contact. Longer periods to have student contact and work in-depth.
- Anecdotal
  - Teacher complaints diminished as the year went down.
  - Teachers felt refreshed by recycling student groups three times a year rather than two times.

#### **Trimester Challenges**

- Planning/Student-Course Selections
  - Need for better long-term planning. Need to do a better job with 8<sup>th</sup> graders.
  - Complicates single/double-offerings.
  - More conflicts for high-end producers in their junior and senior year(s).
- Teacher/Staff Development Time
  - Infrequent staff-contact.

*Leslie expressed her concern that there is no need for some students to attend third trimester due to all of their requirements being fulfilled.*

Michael Schaefer responded that a new course “Senior Forum”, has been added as a senior requirement; also working on the tutoring and aide program. Additionally, they are focusing on the keys to going to college and listed some of the ODE and different universities suggestions about what courses to have.

*Leslie asked “In general, are most teachers satisfied/happy?”*

- Linda Hogle replied – younger yes, veteran teachers struggling more with change. The bigger issue is prep – not trimesters.
- John George – Honors math and Language Arts programs – being dealt with.

### **JoAnn Bethany – IVHS**

- Give enough time to see if success/failures of trimester system anecdotal or a result of the change to trimesters. IV test scores are up; math scores are up sixteen percentage points from last year. So. Was this a result of trimesters, or a bright group of tenth graders?
- Most of the students like the change. They also like starting school later.
- Most teachers like some parts of the trimester. Most of them enjoy teaching the new classes they got to teach. Most of them like the longer class period; they are able to accomplish a lot more.
- There have been a fewer number of ‘F’s.
- Attendance has been better.
- Discipline referrals about the same.
- Positive things with seniors:
  - 89% going on to college or post-secondary training.
  - 34% accepted to 4-year college.
  - 64% of the seniors at IV felt their experience was rated a 4 or 5 (5=awesome). 8% gave it a 1 or 2.
- Trimester Issues
  - Common Prep.
  - Lack of staff development time.
  - Students taking AP classes find it harder to fit everything in.
  - Seniors completing early and need to look at what more we can do to keep them in school.
  - Loss of time for CREW (advisory program).
  - Scheduling issues; building the good master schedule.
  - Increased cost for vocational classes.

Should we continue? Absolutely. At this point the positives outweigh the negatives. We need to find ways to fix as many of the problems as we can as we work together and work through it.

**Linda Hugle – NVHS**

- Very much the same experiences as Dennis and JoAnn.
- Teacher survey indicated “Need for more meetings”.
- Students really liked the trimester. Biggest problem: AP seniors at the upper level frustrated that they couldn’t take everything they wanted.
- Felt their master schedule was pretty good; hoping to have a better one next year.
- College Intent of Graduates:  
07/08 - 76%  
08/09 – 86%
- Attendance: NVHS monthly attendance rates increased in 08/09 over 07/08 in every month except April (bomb threat).
- GED referrals down substantially from 07/08. 2008/09 total GED referrals = 10.

**John George – Director of Secondary Education**

- John presented the preliminary data from the statewide assessment scores.
- There is work that needs to be done on math. There is a lot of focus district-wide on it at this time.
- Last documented presented was the district pre-preliminary report for this year. There are a couple of issues because of a couple of schools not meeting AYP.

Peter Maluk stated that there is an issue with one elementary schools performance on AYP with children with disabilities. Second year same school is less than what it needs to be (math). He is still looking into this and ways to appeal it.

Dan Huber-Kantola addressed the questions that have previously been raised about AP:

- IVHS has a grant for AP, the College Board, so that is why they are able to send more teachers to training. We will look in to whether or not that is a possibility for Hidden Valley.
- NVHS working on another grant through Gear up. All North Valley AP teachers have had training.
- AP training focuses on preparing students for exam, and how to teach. The training included materials, textbooks, how to teach, and preparation for the exam. Linda Hugle stated the training was very valuable.
- HVHS does not have an adequate number of AP teachers trained.

Workshop adjourned at 7:12 PM.