

Curriculum Committee Minutes September 21, 2011

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Pana High School Library

Chairman Metzger called the meeting to order.

Members present: Dively, Duez, Carlson, Hahnenkamp, Hankins, Lauff, McClure, McRoberts,
Metzger, Osborn, Wysong, Zueck, Mayhall

Members absent: Ade, Kettelkamp, Schafer

Superintendent Present: Yes

Visitors:

The committee discussed the following:

1. Approval of Minutes – May 4, 2011. Motion to approve minutes. Duez, Second – Carlson
2. *High School Restructuring Plan, District Improvement Plan, Joint Committee* – Mr. Dively reviewed a Power Point that explained the need for the district to complete a District Improvement Plan. The district has failed to meet AYP for 2 years in a row and will be required to complete a District Improvement Plan that must be approved by the Board and submitted to ISBE. Also in the Power Point was information on the Restructuring Plan that is required for the High School. The high school failed to make AYP and is in Academic Watch Status Year 2. Due to this a restructuring plan must be created this year, with implementation of the plan to take place in 2013 if the high school were to fail to make AYP again. Information was also presented on a Joint Committee that the district must form as required by the Education Reform Act. The Committee must consist of representatives or designees of the Board of Education and representatives of the collective bargaining unit. The purpose of the committee is to create a list based on teacher evaluation to determine the order in which reduction in force will take place. Dr. Lett indicated that we needed to form a committee to work on the District Improvement Plan and that the same committee would work on the high school restructuring plan. A second committee would be needed to form the Joint Committee. The Joint Committee is required to have at least one meeting by Dec. 1, 2011.
3. *Title I Schoolwide Annual Evaluations/Schoolwide Plans* – Mr. Dively gave a brief update on the progress of the annual Title I schoolwide evaluations. The evaluations are being completed at Washington, Lincoln, Jefferson, and Pana Jr. High by teams that include Title I teachers, classroom teachers, principals, and parent representatives. Upon completion the evaluation will be used to update the schoolwide plans for each school.
4. *Other Curriculum Consideration* – Ms. McRoberts explained to the committee that Physical Enhancement was not being offered this year. She explained that the teaching staff discussed this and felt that it would be more productive to incorporate this curriculum within the regular P.E. class. They were concerned about the fact that athletes in the class were not performing well. Dr. Lett indicated that his concern was

it was difficult to get Enhancement. The tradeoff for the Enhancement class is that students in it are not as well rounded. Mr. Duez suggested that this be done as an early bird class. Ms. McRoberts indicated that they would be willing to revisit this next year.

At the last Curriculum meeting Ms. McRoberts reported to the committee that the High School planned to move study hall from the end of the day to the middle of the day. The reason for the change was to provide more time to provide interventions for students. Ms. McRoberts reviewed how this change has been working. Concern was expressed that moving the study hall to the middle of the day has caused athletes that have to leave early for sporting events to miss some of their classes. Previously they were leaving during the study hall. Mrs. Hankins reported that this has had an impact on her College Prep History class. It was pointed out that this could intensify in the spring.

Mr. Lauff reported that the modified block schedule that he had proposed at the last meeting was not implemented this year. He was not able to make the schedule work out. Mr. Lauff did explain to the Committee that some changes had been made in the math curriculum for the Jr.High. He stated that the goal was for all PJHS students to be Algebra/Geometry ready by the time they reach PHS. Mr. Lauff explained that math classes have always been tiered based on ability in 7th and 8th grade. Students either took General Math, Pre-Algebra, or Algebra. Students that took Algebra could receive a non-math high school credit. He pointed out the downward trend in math ISAT scores begins at the 7th and 8th grade. He explained that only about 30% of the ISAT test is Algebra with the remainder of the test covering geometry, number sense, and probability. With the new approach all students would utilize the algebra textbook. The intention would be to differentiate instruction to meet the needs of all students. A credit for Algebra could still be given by utilizing an assessment to measure student ability in the subject.

Having no further business, a motion was made by Lauff and seconded by McRoberts to adjourn the meeting of Sept. 21, 2011 at 8:08 p.m.

Member

Member