

Committee of the Whole - Strategic Planning Workgroup Meeting

November 01, 2016 6:30 PM

Derby Middle School Cafetorium

Attendance taken at 6:40 p.m.

Present Board Members:

Mr. Dan Foley
Mrs. Janine Netto
Mr. Jim Gildea
Mrs. Christine Robinson
Mr. George Kurtyka
Mr. Ken Marcucio
Mrs. Laura Harris

Absent Board Members:

Rebecca O'Hara - excused
Andy Mancini - coming late

I. Call To Order

I.a. Opening Ceremonies

I.b. Roll Call

I.c. Additions or deletions to agenda items - none

II. Public Participation

None

III. Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Conway provided a presentation on the achievement data between students who have attended Derby Schools less than two years and those who have attended more than two years. The scores depict the large achievement gap that exists. Examples included Bradley's 3rd grade ELA scores with 50% of transient students scoring at goal while 67% of students attending over two years scoring at goal in reading. Math had a greater gap with only 17% of transient students meeting goal compared to 46% of longer term students. Dr. Conway noted that most of our transient students (25%) are coming from other Valley towns and that working with those districts to have a standardized, common curriculum could improve transient student outcomes. While Valley districts can discuss getting to a common curriculum, the State would need to provide additional dollars to regionalize services. The State is talking about ways to assist with the issue.

Teachers this year are required to develop two student learning objectives, with one focusing on the transient students.

Ken Marcucio asked if there were statewide average scores that we could compare Derby to. Dr. Conway noted there were, but cautioned that some schools have no transient populations comparable to Derby, so the basis for their scores do not compare Derby or those schools facing the same transient issues.

IV. Workgroup Breakout Sessions

IV.a. Academics/Human Capital

Participants: Ken Marcucio, Sean O'Mara, Christine Robinson, Andy Mancini, Mario Ciccarini, Matthew Conway, Rachel

The committee reviewed the budget form developed to collect teacher and administrator budget needs. The form has the account number, description and is broken into the key strategic areas: operations, school climate, human capital and academics. This form will be uploaded to share and will be used this year as we develop the district budget.

Connie discussed that the Operations plan had primarily been completed and opened discussion on those operational items that could be added under the current goals as objectives with action steps developed.

The following were items noted by participants:

1. Add a Curriculum Director at Central Office
2. Need for School Resource Officers at all schools
3. Need for District grant writer
4. Community Liaison to attend all community and city meetings to communicate with the schools
5. Need for additional staffing of the Little Raiders Program
6. Bridges needs more localized office to quickly respond when students in crisis
7. Maintain full time social workers currently in place
8. Convene a business advisory committee to work with schools

Connie will develop objectives and initial action steps to bring to January meeting for full development so they can be implemented.

Ken Marcucio briefly explained the discussions being held with Ansonia regarding shared services or collaborative agreements. He noted that neither required a community referendum. Currently they are working on having Derby students attend Ansonia for advanced Physics and Ansonia students participating in Derby's technology and wood shop classes. Martin Pascale reported that the arrangement requires a great deal more work as the class schedules currently would not allow for the effort. He will continue to work with Ansonia's Administration to flesh out the issues and hopefully resolve. Transportation would also have to be resolved, but we contract with the same company so would be an easier situation than if we had different vendors.

IV.b. Operations

Participants: Dan Foley, William Vitelli, Mario Ciccarini, George Kurtyka

The committee received a grid of all teacher trainings mandated through State Statute that included: Statute and local Policy reference, who was required to be trained and frequency. Additionally, notes were included regarding the status of all trainings.

John Saccu presented information on Trauma Informed Care and the need for staff to be provided more information or training on the impact of trauma on child behavior and performance and how teacher reaction impacts it. Students

exhibiting four or more of the signs of trauma will experience academic issues, including failure.

The committee also discussed how Kelly services should screen subs to learn if their employees are familiar with mandated requirements on sexual assault and bullying. Some questioned if all subs received training in mandated reporting and safety/security.

IV.c. Culture and Climate

Participants: Martin Pascale, Michael Wynne, Laura Harris, Jennifer Olsen, Shelly Sheridan, Alison Conway, Janine Netto

Laura thanked everyone for participating.

1. **Survey questions**-In reviewing the input from the administrators, it was agreed that the following would be deleted: 1. I talk with teachers, 2 Student is challenged to meet high expectations, 3. I am comfortable talking with teachers, 4. School helps when child has a problem, 5. Teacher treats me with respect, 6. Child is learning a lot, 7. Student has access to extra help. In some instances, wording was changed to read more positively. Committee members also determined to add the following statements: 1. I would recommend this school to others, 2. The adults in the school have built strong relationships with my child, 3. School staff display a positive attitude, 4. My child has friends at school, 5. Regular school attendance is a priority at this school. The changes will be collated and forwarded to Dr. Conway for use with the first survey scheduled to begin at parent conferences.
2. **Parent liaisons**-The committee was provided a draft description for the position and briefly discussed. It was decided to provide the description to Debbie Almonte at the high school, as well as a copy to Dr. Conway to share with all Administrators at their next meeting.

Reports Due in January:

1. Feedback from Dr. Conway and Debbie Almonte regarding parent liaison draft description, as well as Administrator input.

All Chairs provided a brief report on the work the committee had completed during the meeting.

V. Administrator's Monthly Reports No Questions

- V.a. Bradley School Monthly Report**
- V.b. Irving School Monthly Report**
- V.c. Derby Middle School Monthly Report**
- V.d. Derby High School Monthly Report**
- V.e. Early Childhood Program Director**
- V.f. Special Education Report**
- V.g. Athletic Director**

Mrs. Caggiano told the committee that our Girls Cross Country Team won the State Championship. The Board will be asking the City to purchase rings for them as they do to other championship teams. The Board will ask the team to come to a Board meeting after their season.

Mrs. Harris thanks Mrs. Conway for a great hour of fun at Little Raiders University. It was welcoming and warm and the students were engaged.

Mrs. Harris talked about the big switch with administrators changing building on November 15th.

VI. Regional Calendar 2017-2018

Dr. Conway informed the group that the ACES Board didn't come to agreement on the calendar proposed with regard to the start date for the students. The group will be meeting again in November and he will report back to the Board.

The Board agreed that their preference would be to have our students start the year mid-week. Dr. Conway will share that with ACES.

VII. Executive Session

none required

VIII. Adjourn

Motion Passed: That the Board of Education adjourn its meeting at 8:14 p.m. passed with a motion by Mrs. Harris and a second by Mr. Kurtyka.

Mr. Dan Foley	Yes
Mr. Jim Gildea	Yes
Mrs. Laura Harris	Yes
Mr. George Kurtyka	Yes
Mr. Kenneth Marcucio	Yes
Mrs. Janine Netto	Yes
Mrs. Rebecca O'Hara	Excused
Mrs. Christine Robinson	Yes
Mr. Andy Mancini	Yes

Terri Kuskowski
Recording Secretary

Minutes are subject to approval at the next Board meeting.