

Minutes of Education Committee Meeting of April 24, 2013

The Board of Education Harlem Consolidated School District

An Education Committee meeting of the Board of Education of Harlem Consolidated School District was held Wednesday, April 24, 2013, beginning at 6:00 PM in the Harlem Administration Center, 8605 North Second Street, Machesney Park, IL 61115.

1. Call to Order at 6:00 p.m. by Heather Kelley
2. Roll Call
Heather Kelley, Barb Browning, Shane Caiola, Mickie Erb, Margo Sickele, Julie Morris, Kris Arduino
3. Approval of Agenda
1st Erb 2nd Morris
All aye,
Motion carried
4. Approve Minutes of March 13, 2013
1st Browning 2nd Erb
All aye
Motion carried
5. Comments from the Community
none
6. Literacy Numeracy Plans
Presenter: Academic Coaches
Dr. Browning noted that there is a big push on the Common Core Standards and supporting education.
Jen Shackett, Jodi Mohr and Sara Jacobson presented the Literacy & Numeracy Plans for the District
Math – Elementary – 2 summers ago they created the curriculum aligned to the Common Core Standards. This past summer they met and talked about the standards and the challenges. This is the third year this summer and Jen will be meeting with various grade levels for tweaks to the Plans. Exploration of K-6 common summative assessments were implemented this school year.

Next year during Institute Days there will be time spent with teachers focusing on the Common Core State Standards relative to the Math focusing on our struggles so that we can teach to the standards along with assessment tasks.

Secondary Math – last summer met with 7th through 11th to align to the Common

Core Standards. This summer each grade will meet again and revise guides based on the challenges and struggles with curriculum. Focus will be on instructional strategies and assessment tasks to use to align to the State Standards in teaching.

A Numeracy Plan was created this school year focusing on the professional development needs of the teachers to better serve our students.

The two things of concentration are the (1) concrete-representation-abstract model (CRA), and (2) number sense strategies.

This year 4, 5th and 6th grade half day workshops were held with the model, modeling two lessons and the teachers would break off into groups to create their own lessons using the model approach. After school workshops were held K-3. Next year K-3 half day work session will be implemented on effective strategies to teach the four operations.

First Grade Pilot program will be held possibly next year after researching Common Core Aligned Programs for teachers to pilot next year. Each school had 3 programs to review and then ranked their selections as to preference. Dr. Browning and Jen are reviewing the results with possibly going to second grade also.

Sara noted that by June 2013 the District will develop K-12 instructional strategies to promote literacy aligned to the Common Core Standards. Most of April Institute focused on adding common strategies. Leading up to the school year we looked at the Harlem Literacy Framework and developed a Plan sharing with all staff in buildings, Guided Reading, K – 6, Interactive Writing training K-1, and we are working on the writing process coaching cycles K – 6.

Jodi noted at the middle school we are working on a workshop framework, a reading workshop framework and a writing workshop framework to give a balanced approach. The workshop model is an organizational structure with hold group time a lot of small group time as well as individual time to bring back to share. We are hoping to get our students more engaged and invested in the content they are learning therefore becoming more self-directed. The teachers will have more opportunity for differentiation. This develops independent learners and aligned to the Common Core.

Sara noted that summer of 2012 we spent time aligning the curriculum with Common Core creating the ELA Curriculum Guides K-12, with K-12 writing rubrics developed. An academic vocabulary was developed K-6 by grade level and 7-12 grade level and discipline.

This year the ELA Guides were presented to each grade level, staff discussed and coaches presented at Q & A's at staff meetings. A grade level feedback meeting was also held. In the summer of 2013 we will meet again to revise K-12 the first three days we are out of school.

The writers' workshop has been a focus this year at K-1, and all kindergarten teachers have been trained in writers workshop and a majority of first grade classes have had some type of coaching cycle. Next year it will be expanded to middle school science and social studies. Monthly meetings with principals along with the District Math Coach will be held. Professional development for each building is being discussed at staff meetings with exit slips asking for staff needs. Reading and Writing intervention classes will also be held.

February Institute the entire District looked at the Common Core Standards as a focus with representatives from ISBE talking about the Common Core and as a state transitioning to the Common Core. We moved from there to Harlem Common Core, unpacking the Standards – what does the student need to know and do to demonstrate they have mastered the standard K – 12. All teachers and administrators were included. Secondary and specialists were also included looking at literacy and area standards.

At April Institute teacher feedback from February indicated that they want to continue with the literacy standards and add the assessment tasks and instructional strategies. They were not ready for the math. We revisited the unpacked February standards and unpacked additional standards.

Next steps:

We will look at the ELA Curriculum Guide revisions this summer,

Next fall we will do some grade level writing collaboration days – rubric analysis and revision

Grade level unit development

Continue working with all disciplines to incorporate Common Core Literacy Standards

Jodi noted at the secondary level incorporating the standards and strategies within all the content areas is important and how those strategies apply in the specialized areas.

Next Steps:

Writers Workshop is a huge focus 2nd and 3rd grade – all grade levels will be included;

Workshop model – continued professional development for Science and Social Studies at the Middle School, for all areas with focus on Science and Social Studies
Continue monthly meetings with principals

Jodi noted that relative to professional development on making some videos to use for trainings. Sara noted that one of the things is that there is only one coach for 9 buildings. Teachers are asking for professional development videos. We are developing videos from our district in our classrooms. Currently there is a video K-4 which is in the editing process. The high school video class will help us edit the videos. These will be used in the fall.

7. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, tbd

8. Adjournment

1st Erb 2nd Caiola

All voted aye

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kris Arduino, Recording Secretary