

Minutes of Education Committee Meeting Of January 23, 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, January 23, 2013, beginning at 6:00 PM in the Harlem Administration Center, 8605 North Second Street, Machesney Park, IL 61115.

1. Call to Order by Heather Kelley
2. Roll Call: Heather Kelley, Barb Browning, John Cusimano, Julie Morris, Shane Caiola, Margo Sickle, Terrell Yarbrough, Mickie Erb, Evelyn Meeks, Kris Arduino
3. **Motion to Approve Agenda**
1st Erb 2nd Yarbrough
All aye
Motion carried
4. **Motion to Approve Minutes of November 28, 2012**
1st Morris 2nd Browning
All aye
Motion carried
5. Comments from the Community
none
6. Subgroup Growth on State Assessments and Changes for State Assessments This Year
Presenter: Margo Sিকেle, Director of Accountability & School Improvement

Ms. Sিকেle noted that the numbers on the charts indicate the percentage of students that meet and exceed the standards on the test. Subgroups are reported only if there are 10 or more students. 0% indicates there were less than 10 students with scores in that subgroup for that year. There was an 80% target.

Ms. Sিকেle reviewed the PSAE reading scores for the High School by subgroup, with no reported in the Asian subgroup due to less than 10 students. There is marked improvement in all other subgroups, other than Multiracial which remained constant from last year. High School PSAE Math scores also are reflective that the Asian subgroup is not reported due to low numbers, with extreme improvement in the Hispanic subgroup from last year and marked improvement in all other subgroups.

Middle School ISAT reading scores show all subgroups with improvement except for

students with disabilities which decreased Asian and Hispanic. The same trend for growth appears in Math at the Middle School also. The Black, Hispanic, Asian, students with disabilities and low income subgroups show decreases in improvement from last year. The white subgroup remained constant with last year.

Elementary 6th Grade ISAT reading district-wide which includes scores for all students beginning with May 2011 regardless of which schools serve the students reflect achievement gaps but not as dramatic as the secondary level. All scores decreased from 2011. 6th Grade ISAT Math shows improvement in scores except for the multiracial subgroup which decreased. 5th Grade ISAT Reading district-wide shows less than 10 students considered as multi-racial so it shows at 0%. All subgroups show positive improvement from last year. 5th Grade ISAT Math has slightly wider achievement gaps particularly in the Asian subgroup. 4th Grade ISAT reading shows decreases in white, black, Hispanic, and low income subgroups. The trend data gives us a better sense of what is occurring in the programs. 4th Grade ISAT math reflects gains for IEP students, multiracial, and black subgroups. 3rd Grade ISAT reading shows an overall increase in all areas except with Black, Multiracial and students with disabilities. 3rd Grade ISAT math reflects improvement in the Hispanic and low income subgroups while slight decreases in White, Black, and students with disabilities. The multiracial subgroups significantly decreased from 2011.

Statewide data shows 82% of Illinois Districts and 66% of Illinois Schools did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) this year. The numbers are reflective of slight increases over 2011. H122 ISAT composite score was 80% in 2012. H122 PSAE composite score was 51% in 2012.

ISBE writing assessment is still suspended for 2012-2013. The 2013 Reading and Math ISATS will contain items written to the Common Core Standards which will be included as a part of the students' scores for 2013. The statewide score for students meeting and exceeding standards stayed flat. Academic warning, below, meets or exceeds standards are the score ranges. 20% of the test is being aligned to Common Core.

Performance levels (cut scores) for the 2013 administration of the ISAT will increase in 2013. This will provide for a better gauge of college and career-readiness, better alignment with the PSAE. Currently 82% of students in the State meet or exceed on this compared to 51% on the PSAE. These new "cut scores" are not available as of this date.

It is important to note that the ISBE expects ISAT scores to drop in 2013. With the changes being implemented for 2013, we know that fewer schools and students will meet the expectations of the ranges.

PSAE 2013 includes the Grade 11 writing component is still eliminated because of the high cost of scoring. Students taking the PSAE this year will not receive an ACT

writing score. Anyone who wants to use ACT scores as part of college admission will need to take a separate test with the writing component in order to use that score.

ISBE is providing a “no cost” option for all students to participate in the 3rd available WorkKeys assessment, Locating Information, and to earn ACT’s National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC), which will be administered at the high school.

7. Calendar Changes - Ending First Semester before Winter Break

Dr. Browning noted that we have ended the first semester before Christmas as an option in the hopes that secondary students taking finals before break might perform better and it would allow for time to move students up that did not have enough hours to be considered a junior at the beginning of the year and if credits were determined sooner in January they could take the PSAE in the spring and graduate on time.

Chad Dougherty noted that it is approximates 50 kids that will move from sophomore status to junior status and take the test. This is positive.

Dr. Browning noted that we need to discuss the pros and cons of ending the semester before Christmas for the next year which would mean that we need to start school a week sooner. This year, the administration didn’t move that starting date back this year and we ended up with short days for the first semester.

Mr. Dougherty noted that he has not had a single teacher state that it did not go well and he has not heard from parents about any issues either. Terrell Yarbrough noted that he has not heard anything from his staff and parents. It was noted that a Board member, Mrs. Jackie Ruch had noted that she had some parents state that it was too busy with too many things going on. Ms., Sিকেle and Dr. Browning pulled the data for failure and pass rates compared to when the semester ended after Christmas and found that there were more seniors that passed and fewer freshman passed. Sophomores and juniors remained constant. She noted that we don’t have a reason why the seniors did better. She also noted that the high school has had a lot less discipline in December because the students had finals so they didn’t seem to have as many discipline issues.

Dr. Browning noted that she would like some input from this Committee on the calendar for 2013-2014. Mr. Cusimano noted that if the high school is seeing positive things with seniors he feels that as a parent of two high school students he had positive feedback from his older son with having finals out of the way before the holiday break. Mrs. Heather Kelley noted that her son is a freshman and he also seemed to have some difficulty with finals as he has never completed finals before. Mr. Cusimano’s son seemed to experience the same type of issue with not having taken finals before. Mr. Yarbrough noted that teacher preparation also is a consideration and with another year of the semester ending before winter break may be good.

Shane Caiola noted that there is more of a balance in the semesters but he did not hear from staff and parents at the elementary level. Mr. Yarbrough noted that the atmosphere in the building after the holiday seems to be a “fresh start” approach if finals are out of the way before break.

Dr. Browning noted that we will get the calendar options out to the teachers for their input. Leah Krippner noted that she is getting positive feedback from teachers ending the semester before winter break.

Dr. Browning noted that there will be four calendar options A 1 and 2 and B 1 and 2 because State law requires the last day of student attendance to be a full day or five hours. The problem with this is at the elementary and middle school if students are there all day there is no time for teachers to do cumulative records. She noted that the administration has looked at having an Institute Day after the student’s last day which is an option with starting early and a normal start time. If that Institute Day is placed at the end then we will only have one Institute Day at the beginning of the year. The other option is to keep the 2 Institute Days at the beginning of the year and the last two student attendance days will then be five hour days to give teachers time to do cumulative records. Late start will also have two option choices. Dr. Browning is hopeful by the end of the week the calendars will be out district-wide to teachers to consider.

Mr. Caiola asked about registration and Dr. Browning noted that we would have to move registration up a week because the start day would be August 12 for the first teacher day and August 13 and 14 would be the first day of school for students.

Elena Schelling-Tufte asked about the Maple calendar option. Dr. Morris noted that at this point we are just sending out the District calendars.

8. CEANCI Programming

Presenter: Julie Morris, Superintendent

Dr. Morris distributed some programming decisions the Board of Governors have made for CEANCI. CEANCI stands for Career Education Associates of North Central Illinois.

She noted that there are ten school districts in the consortium which are all high school and middle school programs. This is a vocational program. Perkins federal grant money is generated for this program for up to 1.5 million dollars per year for all schools to put toward vocational programming which also includes minimal state funds. In the past the Board of Governors includes all 10 superintendents. Mr. Dennis Harezlak is the current President of the CEANCI Board. The superintendents make the decisions regarding the CEANCI programming. Dr. Morris also noted that the program is spread out geographically and Harlem does have a strong vocational program. She noted that the District would need to keep some slots available for other school students who would pay a fee. One of the problems is that it is

logistically tough to send students to various schools. One of the other issues is because of the fact that you cannot sustain as many high level classes in a school by itself you either can't run the program or you mix them in with lower level classes. When the goal is to get as many students as possible it just has not worked well. Some of the programs are solid at the basic and middle level, but the more intense or advanced programs which could give a student dual credit at the college level just don't exist. We will begin working with Rock Valley College which will house our CEANCI upper level programs. There will be a center at Stenstrom which will provide for a strong center for intensive programming. With Rock Valley we will have the partnership with them providing the building and staffing. Cost is approximately \$1,015 per student in the CEANCI program and tuition should not be increased due to our partnership. We will be strengthening partnerships with businesses also to help create a workforce locally where they leave the program with a year of Rock Valley Credit done and one more year after high school graduation. We will fold out the first year on a small scale. Winnebago Township has also talked about allocating some money to fund some programming as well. Our goal which will come out tomorrow in a press conference will talk about the program. Rockford, Belvidere, Harlem and one other smaller district together with Rock Valley College will work together as a subcommittee with business partners to plan for the program and work through details.

It is a possibility that Harlem, Hononegah and South Beloit could bus students together in the Northern part of the community as well as other districts joining forces in the Southern and middle part of the community to provide transportation for programming.

CEANCI is hoping to provide a more comprehensive approach to career education as a region and not as individual schools. Rockford is also indicating a willingness to participate in this.

She noted that a group traveled to East Leyden High School to observe their manufacturing program as they work closely with their advisory group which is made up of business partners. These partners are helping with work study programs, cost of equipment and hiring of students when they leave high school at good paying jobs. One concern is whether the programs at the high schools will dry up and some may go away over the course of time, but welding, automotive and other courses can feed students into the next level.

Dr. Morris noted that districts are in need of long term stable programming and with the changes being made this is very exciting for students regionally.

Mrs. Kelley noted that there has to be a community wide effort to build the work force for students coming out of high school.

Dr. Morris noted that Margie Hartfield is the new director and she will develop a presentation to bring to the various school boards for a consistent message across the

region. This will be forthcoming in the next couple of months.

.9. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, February 20, 2013, at 6:00 p.m.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn

1st Erb 2nd Browning

All aye

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.