

Discussion Notes February 6, 2017---4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Professional Development/PLC Structure for 2017-2018 for Monday afternoons:

Superintendent Dr. Allen Bourff indicated that he would be visiting the Solution Tree vendor housed at Indiana University this week along with Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jan Combs, Director of Elementary Education Dr. Stephanie Loane, and Director of Secondary Education Phil Lederach. Dr. Bourff further communicated he had been in conversation with principals about using IAs and lay coaches to supervise study tables. He also indicated some schools wanted the option to hold practice/rehearsal later in the evening. Dr. Bourff will continue to explore training and structure options.

2017-2018 Calendar

Dr. Bourff indicated that the approved calendar for next year only contains 184 teacher days though the Board contracts teachers to work 185 days. Elementary and intermediate teachers have received a day off due to conferences in the past. Secondary teachers have had a day for professional development. The calendar has changed due to the advent of a one-week fall break. Dr. Bourff indicated that conferences would occur next year at all levels. The expectation would be that teachers would be given a three-week window period for conferences to occur. In exchange, that conference time would count as the missing teacher day. Dr. Bourff also discussed the possibility of making one day over fall break available for conferencing if teachers chose to do so. Dr. Bourff understands that since some teachers have an excess of 200 students, conferencing with everyone is not possible at the secondary level.

HSEA asked some questions and indicated they would like to survey on this issue and would report the results at the March discussion meeting.

World Language

Director of Secondary Curriculum Phil Lederach indicated the junior highs had surveyed parental interest for students to take a world language in the 8th grade. Currently students qualify to take a world language based upon test scores in English Language Arts. HSEA expressed concern articulated by teachers in other subject areas such as Composition and the related arts as a possible snowball effect in lesser numbers of students enrolled in those subjects. Superintendent Dr. Bourff indicated that the district would not reduce teacher numbers. HSEA questioned referendum dollars earmarked to elementary and intermediate language acquisition. Phil Lederach explained the committee had recommended global awareness at the elementary and intermediate instead of language acquisition. A student in his/her junior year of high school may request a grade be removed.

Early Childhood Moving to Pre-School Programming for 2017-18

Our current Early Childhood program formed to meet the law requirement for special needs children ages 3 - 5. Next year, changes will occur to meet the least restrictive environment. A pre-school program will be created that will include students with IEPs in addition to more typical peers.

Physical Placement:

Sand Creek Elementary will have two classrooms and the remainder of the rooms will go to Brooks School. The OTs/PTs will relocate to Fall Creek Intermediate or Fall Creek Junior High for office and equipment space. HSEA inquired whether rooms specially constructed rooms at BSE would

revert 50 Pre-School. Director of Exceptional Learners Dr. Tom Bell indicated that it would be preferred to have all Pre-School rooms with restroom facilities. Dr. Bell also indicated coverage would be provided within Pre-School for conferences if needed.

Supervision:

The building principal would supervise the pre-school program. Dr. Bell discussed creating an environment where pre-school teachers feel connection to the school.

Accreditation:

Dr. Bell indicated discussions were ongoing about whether to purchase curriculum or have teachers write the curriculum or a combination of the options. Dr. Bell indicated the district would investigate accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). He indicated this process would take several years.

Programming Options:

Dr. Bell indicated some students would go 5 days a week in the mornings, others would go 4 days a week in the afternoons. The students would be in session from 8:30 AM – 11:40 AM or 12:25 PM to 3:35 PM in the afternoons. Dr. Bell indicated the district would expect teachers to focus on HSE21 and participate in building PD on Monday afternoons. HSEA inquired about the timing of PD due to different dismissal times from elementary students. HSEA suggested that perhaps the pre-school program not have students on Monday afternoons instead of Friday. HSEA asked about naptime since most all-day pre-schools provide that as an option. The district said naptime would exist for students who went a full-day. HSEA also asked about restoring IA hours. The district indicated it was looking into that. HSEA also reiterated prep time concerns to make sure the issue stayed on the radar. Lastly, Dr. Bell indicated the Early Childhood program would now be called HSE Pre-School.

Programming Models:

Dr. Bell indicated the ideal would be to 60% typical peers versus 40% IEPs. Currently, the model is Around 75% IEPs and 25% typical peers. Dr. Bell could not answer how many students would be in each class, but did indicate one additional room would be added in place of the ECAT evaluation room. Students will be evaluated within the classroom setting. Speech services will be less push-in and more pull-out. Dr. Bell indicated discussion continues to be ongoing between administration and the current Early Childhood program staff.

Hamilton County Innovation Network

Dr. Bourff indicated that the Indiana Department of Workforce Development plans to create an advisory board in Hamilton County to promote internships and other opportunities. This could impact the curriculum 2018-2019. Workforce Development tries to create high-paying jobs to fulfill business' need. These jobs might not necessarily need a college diploma.

World Book Subscription

HSEA inquired if the district had paid for a World Book subscription. Director of Elementary Education Dr. Stephanie Loane indicated parents paid 74 cents in a student fee. In exchange, World Book is an easy-to-access

app on iPads K- 6. A student can access the app on a school device from school. Students would have to log-in through the public library at home.

As a part of this discussion, we discussed junior high fee cuts and the supply budget. Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jan Combs indicated that junior high technology education fees had been cut too much. She requested principals let her know if other fees needed to be adjusted.

Employee Background Checks

This summer we had discussed the process to conduct employee background checks on current employees. However, this process has been placed on hold due to a bill introduced in the state legislature where school employees would have to secure a more expensive check. A full background check remains in place for all new hires.

Tutoring List

Director of Educational Technologies Jeff Harrison requested the tutoring list be removed from websites as several tutors have requested to be removed from the list due to e-mail scams. Instead, the website will request a contact with the guidance office if a tutoring is needed.

Administrator Attendees:

Superintendent Dr. Allen Bourff

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Jan Combs

Director of Elementary Education Dr. Stephanie Loane

Director of Secondary Education Phil Lederach

Director of Educational Technologies Jeff Harrison

Director of Exceptional Learners Dr. Tom Bell

Director of Human Resources & Student Services – Gary Zgunda

Assistant Principal--- Fatima Rich

Assistant Principal – Hamilton Southeastern High School Doug Harter

HSEA Attendees:

Janet Chandler – Hamilton Southeastern High School

Becky Floetker – Riverside Intermediate School

Brent Freed – Fishers High School

Rachel Hiatt – Fall Creek Junior High

Missy Knouse – Cumberland Road Elementary

Janet Lee – Hoosier Road Elementary

Peggy Savin – Fishers Elementary