

Discussion Team Minutes

February 1, 2018 4:00 PM – 6:01 PM

Snow Day Makeup

We had one flex day, February 20, built into the calendar which will now be used as a make-up day for our first snow day. Both the district and HSEA thought make-up for days lost due to weather would be added onto the end of the school year since we only have one flex day this year. The district conducted further research and determined that due to being a high performing school system, the district has flexibility in making up our second lost day. The district had indicated earlier, they would apply to the state to use e-learning days for future years. They completed the application and discovered it was not needed due to our high performing status. Thus, due to our high performing designation, the district discovered that we could use e-learning this year. The Indiana Department of Education is very explicit regarding its expectations for the content and design of an e-learning day. However, due to our high performing status, the district also has flexibility in how that day will be constructed.

Administrators expressed concern that having students attend one day after Memorial Day could cause an increased number of requests to take exams early.

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Combs indicated the Department of Exceptional Learners have been told to make sure to consider implications of e-learning while writing IEPs.

Director of Elementary Education Dr. Stephanie Loane suggested perhaps intermediate and elementary students could have a catalog of offerings from which to select that could offer enrichment opportunities. Discussion team members concurred that the secondary level would most likely prefer to offer inline lessons.

Information generated at the meeting would be conveyed to Dr. Bourff. Stay tuned for more news as we discussed possibilities. No decision has been made.

Substitute Shortage

At last month's meeting, we had brainstormed ways to recruit and retain substitutes. Dr. Beresford indicated the district has been investigating whether to differentiate the pay of substitute teacher from a substitute IA position. He also expressed interest in partnering with HSEA to host a sub expo to recruit subs and offer training in how to be a sub.

High School Modified Block Schedule

HSEA surveyed high school teachers about different aspects of a modified block schedule. At the time of the meeting, results were not yet available, but will be shared with both schools' staffs and administrators.

Chinese STEM 2018 Summer Program

Director of Elementary Education Dr. Stephanie Loane announced that the district will be seeking families to host some intermediate-level students from China this summer. During the week of July 23, approximately 30 intermediate Chinese students will be visiting along with some bi-lingual teachers. The district plans to hire between four to six intermediate teachers who will provide 30 hours of STEM instruction for the group and some current intermediate students.

Teachers will be compensated for 30 hours of instruction at their daily rate. There will be some compensation for curriculum development paid at the curriculum writing stipend with the number of hours paid to be determined later. Watch for an e-mail and posting of teacher positions.

Metiri Group Agreement

Dr. Combs presented information about the possible contract between HSE Schools and the Metiri Group. She indicated this is a national organization. One of the employees is a parent in the school system. That parent approached Dr. Bourff about an audit to assess understanding about what HSE21 means to teachers and parents. Dr. Combs indicated Dr. Bourff thought we would have the Metiri Group conduct the audit to measure the depth of understanding about HSE21.

This process would involve surveying administrators, community members, parents and teachers in addition to visiting teachers' classrooms to see the instructional practices used. The Metiri Group would not be evaluating teachers, but instead noting their practice and how it aligns with HSE21 best practice model.

HSEA queried what the district would gain to balance the \$59,835.50 cost. HSEA indicated multiple teachers had voiced concern over some recent expenditures. HSEA also indicated that since a large portion of the Metiri Group fee would come from Title II funds designated for professional development; those funds would be lost for teacher training.

Dr. Combs indicated that data received would help develop the next steps of HSE21. She further stated that the goal is not to throw money away, but to continue to position ourselves as a world-class district. She further explained that in our current reality of vouchers, we need to continually advance our practice.

Administrators

Mr. Bryan Alig, Sand Creek Intermediate Assistant Principal
Dr. Mike Beresford, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Jan Combs, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Jeff Harrison, Director of Educational Technologies
Mr. Sean Heinseleit, Assistant Principal Lantern Road Elementary
Mr. Phil Lederach, Director of Secondary Education
Dr. Stephanie Loane, Director of Elementary Education
Ms. Valerie Piehl, Fishers High School Assistant Principal
Mr. Reggie Simmons, Riverside Junior High Assistant Principal

HSEA

Ms. Janet Chandler, Hamilton Southeastern High School
Mr. Brent Freed, Fishers High School
Mrs. Becky Floetker, Riverside Intermediate
Mrs. Rachel Hiatt, Fall Creek Junior High
Mrs. Janet Lee, Hoosier Road Elementary
Mrs. Peggy Savin, Fishers Elementary