

Superintendent's Liaison
October 21, 2015
District Office 4:00-5:00 PM

Attendees: Matt Bolha, Chris Brown, Peg Curtin, Brian Kesel, Debra Miller, Michael Perkins, Yvonne Rugg, Sandi Sherlock, Jeanine Stables, Mary Weaver, Allyson Winters

Agenda Topics -

1. In the past, district considered moving all elementary specials to 40 minutes. A move to this practice would allow for:

- **Equal planning time to handle the increased demands on elementary classroom teachers.**
- **Easier scheduling for principals**

Chris' Response: *I am not against this. It would certainly benefit the elementary classroom teachers. However, this did not happen in time for the budget. This would need to be approved by February. For this year we would have to add 2.1 teaching staff members. There was a discussion among principals and committees last year about equalizing the elementary specials. The discussion was predicated on an assumption of reduced numbers of sections - K-5. Once the numbers of sections were finalized, the impact of increasing the time in PE, Art, Library, and General Music (even with the reduction in the numbers of sections) would have required an increase of 1.4 PE, 0.3 Library, and 0.4 Music...or 2.1 FTEs that were not in the adopted budget. The conversation will continue for next year for the appropriate staffing levels. To make such a change can be included in the 2016-2017 budget.*

2. A trend occurring throughout the district is an increase in the number of part-time staff. Many concerns stem from this practice including:

- **A high turnover rate of part-time employees**
- **No tenure or seniority rights**
- **No mentors for part-timers**
- **Important resources like library not being staffed 100% of the school day/week**
- **Emotional/Special needs students not having access to counselors or other trained professionals**

Chris' Response: *I agree with Special Education and to all of the above, however we are limited by when students need their services and support. The largest occurrence of part time workers is in special education and that is based on need and student needs have not lined up with a full time day without having a large gap in the person's day. The consideration is to use full time workers when we can. The staffing is based on needs. The negatives of part time employees are accurate. We are aware that mentors for part timers would be important; we would prefer full time staff. Faculty meetings can be an issue for part time staff so I will discuss with building administration.*

- 3) Renovation/safety committees should be established whenever a building is undergoing renovation. This would allow staff to have representation and be a vehicle for information regarding safety, room access and provide information that may assist the district in planning what will work best for students and staff upon completion of the renovation.**

Chris' Response: *Agreed, an informational committee will be established for future phases of the project. Paul Pelton will determine the information flow of the group and frequency of meetings. I will probably call it "Construction Project Committee." Paul Pelton will run this committee with OR/EH/WGMS.*

- *Stonehedge is 98% complete*
- *Stonehedge should be completed in 2 weeks.*
- *Lester communicates with the Principal's.*
- *Stonehedge 3rd grade has specific issues. Also, fire up of HVAC system caused black smoke.*
- *No similar construction*
- *Contractors are background checked/fingerprinted/must have ID or they are fired on the spot.*

Group Comments: *Could they have a trailer instead of gym? Trailer is scheduled for the high school*

- 4. Concerns continue regarding our new copy center and access cards, they are as follows:**

- **Accuracy**
- **Ability of teachers to adapt their lessons without copier access**
- **Waste due to producing too many copies to avoid running short or having them available in case another assignment is needed for further exploration or differentiation**
- **Monitoring copy use among individual staff members**

Chris' Response: *I spoke with Joanne Pooler*

- *There is now one additional person working from 2:00-6:00.*
- *Have not seen overboard usage.*
- *Can use local copier for 5 or so copies.*

We have not had any formal complaints lodged about the current copy center through PLC's or to the Director of Technology. Teachers do have copier access in their buildings and if a mistake is made in a larger run through the copy center new copies have been made. We have used much less paper with the copier center even considering waste. We will not be returning to copiers in classrooms. We have also been pleased with the copy use and have not had any conversations about ramping up the monitoring of copy use.

Group Comments: *Copy Center has not been an issue on PLC or Technology Committee. The veteran teachers are afraid they will get talked to about overusing copies. Dr. Brown assured them that we do not spend time counting individual usage. Overall, the copy center is much more efficient.*

- 5. Greater variety in the use of the HS sign**

Chris' Response: *The sign will continue to be used for academic messages, significant accomplishments by fine arts and athletics, and occasionally for student driven events.*

- *There will be no change. There is the occasional push for student driven use such as Harvest Dinner, Race for Respect, those are fine.*
- *Brian also indicated that it is used for BOCES/Business/Science student of the month.*
- *In the summer the high school staff schedule Scholarships, and informs parents when they can expect the recognition.*
- *Scholastic/Fine Arts recognitions are also included*