

Superintendent's Liaison Committee
December 16, 2015
District Office: 4:00-5:00 pm

Attendees: Chris Brown, Brian Kesel, Debra Miller, Matt Bolha, Peg Curtin, Dawn Personte, Jeanine Stables, Mary Weaver, John Mannion

Agenda Topics

1. The materials assigned to students on homebound instruction do not come back complete and these students are not successful enough to complete some classes. Teachers are concerned about students completing their classes when placed on homebound. What supports are occurring for these students?

Chris' Response:

If student is homebound they have produced a physician's note. It is important to know the reason why the child needs to be homebound. If ill, the tutor will go to the home or to the private site and they will evaluate what is best for the student. A certified teacher is sent to the home. The parents also commit to being in the home with the teacher and student or to have someone over 21 present.

It is expected when the student comes back to school that they are up to speed. If student is behind, the expectation is that the tutor tries to bring them up to where they need to be. A concern was raised as to what the process would be if the classroom teacher feels that the tutor is not producing up to the classroom expectation. If the teacher feels this is a concern, they should contact the parent, the tutor, then meet with the Building Principal and Brian. Tutoring hours for grade 7-12 is 10 hours per week, for grades 1-6, 5 hours per week.

Group Comments: Is there any concern with the number of homebound students in the homebound program? Brian Kesel responded that no, it is down. If student is out for anxiety, we ask provider for what they are doing for the student. Provider must be an MD. Brian commented that we have a great pool of tutors this year. He will also work with Sue Murray for students with IEP's

2. On that topic, there are increasing numbers of students that have anxiety and have difficulty in coming to school and/or remaining in school. The continuing support of students with mental health issues are concerns for teachers across our district. Is the district administration aware of the increased numbers of students with these issues and how are they being supported to remain in school and be successful in school?

Chris' Response:

We are very concerned with mental health issues. West Genesee will be hosting a community forum on substance abuse, but mental health will also be a focus on January 21st. All employees will be invited to attend. The Commissioner of Onondaga Health, John Katko and other invited guest will be in attendance, from this forum, mini forums will be held.

We have seen where more and more students are coming from traumatic backgrounds. We need to utilize our resources, i.e. work with the police/health care providers. We realize that family connection is important so we can work together. Our biggest concern with mental health is keeping our students and faculty safe. I know that everyone is doing a great job in getting help where needed. We do not want our Academic counselors providing too much therapy because they will become burned out. Our master plan is to bring another Social Worker on board for the district K-12.

3. There is a concern about the safety of the high school because it has been open early and students are allowed to come in at early times. What process is being done to prevent the student to come so early? Some are being dropped off very early and allowed to roam the hall.

Chris' Response: *Geoff Morton has concerns about the high school building being open too early. He would like to create a Building Safety forum. They would address the top 3 things that need to be addressed. One of the suggestions is to create a list of those students who need to be in the building and the reason why. For those students staying late, Geoff would like to send a survey to staff to find out who is supervising, why the student is there, etc. He will work with his staff to work out details of how this will work.*

Group Response: It has been difficult for subs as they have had to be pulled from duties for classes which meant they could not be posted where needed. For safety reasons, this has been a concern.

Chris' Response: *I am looking at a program where we would scan driver's licenses which would connect with law enforcement. If there is a custody issue, we would still rely on the school secretaries to have that information in the school office. I am looking at different options for safety measures for our schools.*