

Independent School District 318
Together, teaching and learning for life . . . to achieve excellence
Strategic Aims: Highest Student Achievement, Safe Environment,
Effective and Efficient Systems, Partnerships

District Shared Decision Council Minutes of April 16, 2007

Present: Kathy Selmsler, Charlene DeLawyer, Jenny Benes, Harvey Hietala, Sue Smith, Bonnie Johnson, Nate Lyons, Susan Marking, Randy Erickson.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Charlene DeLawyer.

An update to the Talented and Gifted program was added to the agenda.

Approval of minutes: Kathy Selmsler moved, seconded by Bonnie Johnson, to approve the minutes of March 12, 2007. Motion carried.

Review of March 29 Early Release Day:

Bigfork School was unable to have their early release afternoon; school was in session to make-up for lost days due to a water problem earlier in the month.

ALC staff reviewed senior Basic Skills Test (BST) math results in an effort to increase the number of students who pass. All ALC books are now leveled; staff will find materials to match their students' reading levels. Time was also spent on crisis management planning.

Cohasset staff spent time in the computer lab working on *Accelerated Reading* web-based programming.

Elementary Physical Education teachers reviewed and revised their report card for next year.

Grand Rapids High School subcommittees provided progress summaries to staff. The math team has been working on new curriculum. Also discussed was MCA II testing, the master schedule and registration data. A new and very active Green Team has been working hard to make environmentally friendly changes to GRHS. The lunchroom has cut down significantly on garbage by switching to washable trays and silverware.

Forest Lake staff reviewed MCA II data. Time was spent in multi-grade level meetings to focus on math and reading scope and sequences and to identify students who performed in levels I and II on the 2006 MCA IIs.

Murphy staff received an inservice on *Accelerated Reader* and *Math Facts in a Flash*. They also spent time gathering data for their May 7 site team/goal setting day.

Early Childhood staff spent time on poverty awareness and reviewing Years 3 and 4 of their Invest Early grant. The data reveals significant differences between income levels. Their challenge is to tackle the gaps in students.

Progress Reports of the 07-08 early release days are due by April 23 to Jenny Benes.

The **May 7 site team/goal setting session draft agenda** was reviewed. Each team will have access to a laptop to work on goals and a flash drive containing their specific building test data in comparison to district and state results. Sites are also encouraged to bring other building information to assist them. The day will be co-facilitated by Joe Silko and Charlene DeLawyer with time spent reviewing SMART goals, action plans, and the district's Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) plan. Sites should set an AYP goal, a literacy goal and then other goals. Members felt that the proposed agenda would work well and appreciated the amount of time allocated to individual building planning.

Talented and Gifted Update: Our TAG programming will be Itasca Area Schools Collaborative (IASC) driven. Deer River and Grand Rapids will begin reviewing, studying and determining direction. Dr. Stephen Schroeder-Davis will be used as a consultant and will be available during the 07-08 early release days to assist those in the program. There will be a shift from pull-out to clustering programming with plans to experiment at RJEMS next year. This type of programming tends to show more academic gains for all students and is socially beneficial. Differentiated Instruction training, led by Dr. Schroeder-Davis, will be held July 23-27, at RJEMS. A stipend of \$375 will be paid to the first fifteen ISD teachers for their attendance. Non-318 teachers are invited to attend at a cost of \$100. Graduate credit is available. Elementary schools will not give the COGAT at this time; an IQ score is not critical to identification. It is more important to listen to parents, teachers and conduct peer reviews. This concept will be introduced to parents during open houses. The program will be renamed due to the connotations attached to "Talented and Gifted".

Building Reports:

Bigfork: working on building issues.

Early Childhood: still working out the building move and custodial issues.

Administrative Services: conducted crisis planning and held a pie social.

Area Learning Center: lots of graduations to report and new babies are being born.

Students are getting motivated and focused on finishing their high school education.

Teachers are needed for art and health; licensing is a problem. There is high interest in the alternative education program task force and the outcomes determined.

Cohasset: A very successful pizza night was held to encourage parent involvement. The February reading goal was just a little short of reading 1,000 books. An Art fair, sponsored by the PTC, was held. The playground will be fenced. A discussion was held on traffic and safety since the new stoplight was installed. A revised parking plan has been implemented. Much discussion occurred on end-of-the-day discharge of students.

Clarification: There is a uniform school release process at the end of the day for all elementary sites. Classroom teachers are very aware of the procedure.

Grand Rapids High School: The site team is reviewing and planning capital and supply budgets for 07-08. The Student Council has presented a cell phone use policy change; a trial run will be held from May 1 – June 1 which allows students time during the day to use their cell phone. The plan includes consistent enforcement, no warning and immediate detention for infractions. Site council elections and term rotations have taken place. The team is preparing for their site team/goal setting day on May 7.

Forest Lake has been selected as a pilot site to use responsive intervention prior to a special education referral. Pizza night, along with the art and book fair, is coming up. Grandparents Day will follow the next day. Their goal is to increase parent involvement and interest in the school. *Accelerated Reader* web-based programming is up and running and books are getting leveled.

Murphy: Staff have been preparing and gathering data for their May 7 goal setting session. The staff is feeling nervous and would like to see their site team working on building modifications and being a voice to the administration; space is an issue.

Clarification: Building principals should be approached with any building concerns or questions. They need to be the first line of contact to their staff.

School Board: The Board is planning to modify the RJEMS building configuration to include grade 5. At this time, there appears to be a resistance to grade level schools; families prefer neighborhood schools, except for those families who have had children realigned. An operating referendum is being planned for this fall. Springstead, an independent financial advising firm, has been contracted with to conduct a community

survey and to help the district determine what will sell including the amount and a process. A 32 question telephone survey will be conducted at random to 400 people comprised of the demographics of the school district. The referendum dollars would be used to reduce class sizes, ease the number of student realignments, add two teachers for next fall and possibly add two more teachers the following year (our fund balance would be spent down to fund these positions). Answers to the following questions need to be clearly stated in lay people's terms: Why do you have a fund balance? What is the purpose? What is the recommended amount?

Copy Machine Scam: The Area Learning Center cautioned sites that there is an **identification/memory chip on copy machines**. They received a suspicious phone call where an individual tried to access private data that had been copied through the copier's memory chip. This will be shared at a principals' meeting also.

An excellent discussion was held on building budgets, supply and department expenses, and technology needs. It was requested that a policy be developed on how to access/approach the building budget and seek funding requests. It was suggested that principals determine their site budget and then review and tweak the budget with their site council.

The **Children's Fair** will be held on Saturday, April 28, at the IRA Civic Center. Grand Rapids High School has joined as a partner this year and has built a playhouse to be given away. Mr. Jarva's carpentry students built the structure using their skills in robotics, construction and electricity. More than 3,000 participants are expected at the event and the day's focus will be literacy. The Boy Scouts Exposition will also be occurring during this time.

Meeting Dates for 07-08: Meetings for 07-08 will be planned for the second Monday of the month at 8:00 a.m. in Administrative Services Room 135: September 10, October 8, November 12, December 10, January 14, February 11, March 10, and April 14. Normally a May meeting is not held due to site team goal setting and the June meeting is held in the afternoon of the last teacher day. Sites are encouraged to ensure their building is represented on the District Shared Decisions Council.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Our next meeting is **Monday, June 4, at 12:00 Noon in Administrative Services Room 135**. Lunch will be served.

Agenda items include:

- Minutes of April 16
- Review of May 7 Goal Setting Session
- Building reports/celebrations
- other items

Respectfully submitted,

Jenifer Benes