

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 Decisions Council Minutes, Monday, February 13 2006

Present: Sue Smith, Harvey Hietala, Nate Lyons, Angie Anderson, Bonnie Johnson, Sue Miskovich, Sue Marking, Sue Mattson, Betty Brandt, Sue Hoeft

The meeting was called to order by Sue Mattson.

Sue Miskovich moved to approve the minutes of January 9 with the correction that Sue Smith was in attendance at the January meeting. The motion was supported by Bonnie Johnson. Motion carried.

Grand Rapids High School:

- Reading strategies are posted each month in all classrooms
- Several staff will be attending a workshop on reading in the content areas
- Students are becoming familiar with the reading strategies
- Consideration is being given to continue the school within a school program (one staff from each core area with a focus on grade nine students and a class-size limit of 15; this would assist those students that fall through the cracks)
- Consideration is also being given to funding a reading class

Forest Lake:

- A half day inservice is being planned for analyzing MAP data
- Grades K-3 teachers meet on a regular basis to focus on reading interventions and a parent component
- Teachers have been inserviced on Skills Tutor Training and Balanced Literacy
- Parent volunteers are being utilized to strengthen student's reading

Robert J. Elkington Middle School:

- Sustained silent reading has been implemented at the middle school
- Teachers are requesting the MAP assessment be administered to new students to determine their reading skills
- Staff development has been targeting reading strategies

Southwest:

- A second round of MAP testing has been completed in January
- Students have been involved in setting reading goals
- Implemented for February is Drop and Read
- A Four block structure focuses on guided reading is being utilized
- There is a push for leveled books
- Staff are utilizing resource books on reading strategies
- PTC and the Eagles are involved in book giveaways

Area Learning Center:

- Orientation course has been developed
- MAP testing is being utilized
- Three week course on reading strategies, time management or organizational skills has been implemented
- Students develop a portfolio with their areas of strengths and weaknesses
- Each student prepares a resume and includes a learning style analysis

Murphy:

- Teachers have attended the Balanced Literacy workshop
- Grades 1-5 Staff have spent a ½ day analyzing MAP data
- Friday night fun reading had a variety of adults reading and a book giveaway

Bigfork:

- Sustained Silent Reading is being reviewed
- A speaker has been contracted for a bullying inservice

Early Childhood:

- Literacy training has been held for all staff
- Parents and students have come together to work on reading strategies
- Utilizing a new program, Building Literacy Together
- Work Sampling data is being reviewed throughout the year

School Board:

- School board has set goals
- Needs to look at staff who are realigned and how to support them in their new positions
- Determine what professional development can be provided
- Concerned about class size and are looking at ways to improve
- Should an operating levy be pursued to lower class size?
- All Day Every Day Kindergarten is a consideration as part of a prospective referendum

Reading Achievement:

- District's number one goal is addressing reading achievement
- We need to find ways to help the bottom-end student
- Training and professional development is being developed/identified for teachers
- Title professional development dollars are to support K-12 reading and writing achievement.
For staff wanting to attend a workshop outside of the district, a request for dollars form must be used; prior approval is needed.
- Leveled readers are needed in content areas
- A literacy coach could work hands-on with teachers by modeling and leading study groups
- Staff will be collecting data and analyzing data
- We need to look at new language arts curriculum and address our reading strategies

Next Meeting: Monday, March 13, 2006, at 7:45 a.m., in Administrative Services Conference Room 135.

Agenda items:

- ◆ Additions to the agenda
- ◆ Building Reports
- ◆ Review District Improvement Plan: How are we doing?
- ◆ Building Improvement Plan
 - Process
 - Timeline

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Mattson
Assistant Superintendent

xc: Principals, Lora Mathison, Joe Silko