

**District Staff Development Committee**  
**Wednesday, October 10, 2007**  
**Administrative Services Boardroom**  
**12:30 p.m.**

Members present: Kristin Dimich, Ken Decoster, Steve Wright, Shelley Schramm, Kathy Selmser, Connie Braiedy, Angie Anderson, Janey Hill, Lori Clifton, Jenna Boedigheimer, Amy Luke, Denise Walker, Tim Larson, Eric Northard, Connie Daigle, Jenny Benes, Dale Christy, Connie Kotonias.

**I. Call to Order**

Connie Braiedy called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m. Denise Walker was introduced as the representative for itinerant staff. Her office is located at Robert J. Elkington Middle School.

**II. Additions or Corrections to the Agenda**

The following items were added to the agenda: Educational Support Professionals' (ESP) use of staff development dollars, working copy of staff development long range plan, and finalization of Dale Gunderson's best practice request.

**III. Minutes of September 13, 2007**

Kristin Dimich moved, seconded by Steve Wright, to approve the minutes of September 13, 2007. Motion carried.

**IV. Committee Reports**  
**Program**

Joe Silko presented information on the ten-year, \$1.3 million operating levy referendum which will be posed to voters on November 6. The funds would be used to reduce class sizes, maintain neighborhood schools and sustain current programming; it would amount to an additional \$295 per pupil unit each year. Angie Anderson shared that *Educators for the Referendum* will meet on Tuesday, October 16, at 3:45 p.m. at RJEMS, to determine how they can assist.

The December program will include a presentation from Charlene DeLawyer on All Day Every Day Kindergarten programming. Information will include student impact, parent response, benefits and curriculum.

**Mentor Committee**

Two mentoring inservices will be held later in the year. Georgia Niles and Joan Bibeau will receive copies of the District Staff Development Committee minutes so that they can keep updated on our activities.

**Policy Manual**

Updated pages were distributed to members. The complete manual is also available on the web at: <http://www.isd318.org/staffdel.htm>.

**V. Old Business**

**A. NCLB and Academic Standards Update**

There has been no response received back from Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) on the two appeals written concerning Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for Robert J Elkington Middle School and Grand Rapids Area Learning Center. The middle school is currently writing a plan to address the special education reading scores. It was questioned if the site is designated or just special education reading? The entire site is designated. All teachers (special education and regular education)

will work together to institute strategies that will be effective for all students.

October 25 early release day plans have been approved by District Shared Decisions. Sites will be meeting, although there are some curriculum trainings that will also occur. Curriculum inservices will not be scheduled during future early release days so that staff can remain with their site.

### **Professional Development Opportunities**

Richard Allington's *What Really Matters for Struggling Readers* inservice is full. National Endowment for the Humanities website will be added to the professional development page. Connie Braiedy shared several staff development opportunities on math and reading. She will continue to forward opportunities to members so they can share with their building and/or members. If you prefer to receive paper copies of documents, please let Connie know.

### **January 21 Multi-District Inservice**

It was the consensus of the committee to not arrange bussing to the January 21 Multi-District inservice at Greenway High School. Encourage your co-workers to carpool as parking is very limited.

### **06-07 District Staff Development Report**

Connie Braiedy and Dale Christy presented the 06-07 District Staff Development Report and 07-08 long range plan to the School Board on October 2. The School Board approved both documents. The annual report has been submitted to Minnesota Department of Education.

### **Recertification**

Nine people attended the September 25 recertification class. The next Recertification Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 16 at 12:30 p.m. Connie will visit with the committee to determine if they should seek additional funding for 08-09 to catch up on their paperwork. Itasca Area Schools Collaborative's (IASC) curriculum director, Becky Smith, is interested in teaming with the district to offer courses in the four recertification areas. Members requested that Becky give further clarification on who needs to attend the scheduled IASC curriculum meetings and if representatives would suffice. The funding source for substitutes also needs to be clarified.

### **Budget**

Updated budgets from September 30, 2007 were distributed. Extra duty time can be funded from building staff development dollars for summer writing, planning time, ESP early release time, etc. Building budgets are determined by the number of staff full-time equivalencies (FTE) and the employee's home base.

## **VI: New Business**

### **Best Practice Request**

Dale Gunderson's Best Practice request was revisited. After further research, it was less expensive to drive to Chicago rather than fly. The amount approved from District Best Practices was \$705.50.

Connie Daigle requested that her 06-07 best practice request for \$100 be researched and dollars reimbursed to Community Education. Jenny Benes will ensure that the necessary paperwork is completed and a journal entry made.

### **Staff Vote for Staff Development Monies**

Dale Christy reported that a decision has been made to not ask staff to vote on the 08-09 staff development monies until after the November referendum.

**07-08 Long Range Plan**

Connie Braiedy will lead a discussion at the December 11 meeting on the 07-08 long range plan. Goals, objectives and opportunities will be reviewed to keep the committee on task. Members were requested to review the document prior to the meeting and be prepared to comment on their ideas. Thanks went out to Connie for her work on the long range plan and Jenny Benes with her work on the 06-07 staff development report.

Tim Larson moved, seconded by Eric Northard, to adjourn the meeting at 2:43 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Our next meeting is **Tuesday, December 11, 2007, at 12:30 p.m.**, in the **Administrative Services Boardroom**.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenifer Benes