

SYSTEMS ACCOUNTABILITY MINUTES

Tuesday, January 23, 2007
Administration Building Board Room

Present: Connie Braiedy, Patty Jo Erven, Charlene DeLawyer, Judy MacAlpine, Doug Learmont, Eric Northard, Ann Clark, Dale Christy, Jodi Weston, Ruth Tatter, Eugene Brandt, Gretchen Hyink, Lora Mathison

Absent With Notice: Karen Cameron, Jacy Morgan, Rod Eidelbes, Angie Larson

EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT SYSTEMS:

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.. Introductions were made. Minutes of December 19, 2006 were approved. Agenda reviewed, American Indian Ed, Social Studies Standards were added.

Social Studies: Ann Clark/RJEMS (6-7-8)

Strengths:

- Exit exam is not available, but a lot of tests throughout the units
- 7th & 8th has same publisher. Staff say reading level is very appropriate

Weaknesses:

- Too much material – 7th grade doesn't have enough time to cover all standards
- Would like to do more projects – feeling like they are only teaching the standards and plowing through the material. Staff would like to do more projects on the side.
- Students are not learning much in depth.
- Staff are feeling frustrated – not enough time. (8 sections 35 students per grade)

What is your next step to solve these problems?

- Replace some of the standards in other areas
- Kids are coming to the high school without researching skills
- The instruction is now content based and more facts
- Staff determine what is covered, knowing everything can't be

Social Studies: Dale Christy/GRHS (9-10-11-12)

- Not really a social study exam to assess high school kids being competent in 9-12 social
- Number of students taking PSEO classes has reduced
- Summary of student numbers per section were outlined

Strengths:

- Courses are scope & sequence
- All courses cover the social standards
- Veteran staff
- Incorporate reading strategies in social courses
- Next year offering 2 college classes (total 6 credits) Economics (3) & European History (3)

Weaknesses:

- Depth-width of social studies too broad
- No room to move within standards
- Dropped Sociology-Psychology because standards are so vast it leaves no time or room
- World History standards are the toughest standards to address
- Thoughts were discussed about why do we have students going to ICC to take behavior classes and not offer them at GRHS?

Social Studies: Eric Northard/Bigfork

Weaknesses:

- Still striving for a State final exam , there is no standardized testing to see if kids are learning the content
- Courses available were reviewed
- Still not offering a current events class
- Costly for additional resources
- Electives non core classes can demand more teacher preparation
- Need more collaboration from other subject area teachers
- Trips are difficult because of cost and distance
- Need increased technology in Bigfork, would like virtual field trips
- #1 need is more differentiated strategies for all diverse kids
- The need to understand differentiated strategies, to use for all learners is the biggest need

Strengths:

- Aligns with state standards
- Textbooks are student-staff friendly, it is easy to pull lessons out
- History and Geography well integrated in 6-11th grades – great collaboration for staff

American Indian Education Social Studies Standards: Patty Jo Erven

- Fall – MN Depart Indian Education standards are to be implemented
- Several Indian Education pieces implemented
- The existing social ___ school text covers a lot of Indian Education standards
- Patty noted that all Indian Education standards must be addressed 4-8 except MN History
- New standards (Indian Education) are needed to be taught in all K-12 classes. Patty would be interested in helping social teachers to implement & teach the standards
- Patty will be at district level meetings to help place in social standards. It is important to make sure somewhere all the Indian standards are placed

Our School's Report Card Survey was discussed:

- Electronic tool, had option to do hard copy also
- Available during conferences
- Tool has historical data (since 1992)
- New tool gives us data we didn't have before
- How many people logged on increased from last year
- This tool is nice for quick read
- The survey was discussed, walked through each question/results
- These results have been presented and delivered to all buildings & School Board

Review survey needs:

- Decide when we want to invite Shared Decisions team to help review the survey revisions
- Decide what questions to keep, delete and/or add
- Look at how we want the data broken out
- Another tool was suggested to better data on bullying situations
- High School trend survey was also suggested for bullying

Other:

- Movie “Freedom Writer”, suggested as a must see!
- The alternative learning discussion and Gifted & Talented programming update was tabled
- There were comments about frustration with the State funding and standards

Respectfully Submitted,
Connie Braiedy