

SYSTEMS ACCOUNTABILITY MINUTES

Tuesday, November 28, 2006
Administration Building Board Room
6:30 p.m.

Present: Jacy Morgan, Eugene H. Brandt, Joan Bibeau, Connie Braiedy, Char DeLawyer, Craig Hegrenes, Jodi Weston, Gretchen Hyink, Ruth Tatter, Doug Learmont, Angie Larson, Dale Christy, Melissa Ewen, Lora Mathison

Absent With Notice: Rod Eidelbes, Paul Meyer

EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT SYSTEMS:

Meeting called to order. Introductions were made. The minutes of October 24, 2006 were reviewed and approved. Agenda reviewed and approved.

Middle School Science

Craig Hegrenes reported. Science Explorer is used in grades 7 & 8. Science Horizons (6) is outdated, but Physical Science hasn't really changed. Teachers are concerned because it is outdated. Other sources have been used to cover missing components. No curriculum has been written for 6th grade. Want to locate some unit texts. Standards are being met.

Summary of student data

- want to be ready for upcoming testing
- next spring we are a pilot site for the new science State required testing in 8th grade
- Bigfork has the same books for their middle school students
- 6th grade is the first year they have science everyday, feel they are prepared, but have many different levels
- would be nice to integrate science into other subject areas
- looking at leveled libraries for science and social, this way we can teach reading in these subject areas as well

High School Science

Melissa Ewen reported

- 9-12 science were a part of the MCA's
- 10th grade students took pilot MCA II test, but there were several issues so did not receive data
- this spring sophomores will be tested in science for the first time
- students need to take 3 credits in the sciences area
- class options: Earth and Space Science, General Physics, IB Physics, Anatomy, Physiology, Chemistry, IB Chemistry, Biology, Physical Science
- adding IB Biology and Forensic Science next year (depending on enrollment will determine if continued to be offered)
- Science ACT scores remain above the State average

- students below average on college readiness
- enrollment seems to be increasing in science offerings
- students are taking more credits in science than needed to graduate
- many students are being added to chemistry or physics realizing they need both to get into some colleges
- during registration it seems that students are not getting the information on what Science classes they need for college
- seems that many students are doing only what they need to “to get by”
- curriculum guide does suggest taking a minimum of 4 credits in science
- Melissa pointed out that lab classes are huge and continue to grow. She has a section of 35, but 24 is a workable number
- things get broken more often with bigger classes
- discussed using VITAL online learning as an option for science
- new course in engineering section: “Project Lead the Way”, course is Intro to Engineering Design
- hope to get the students interested in engineering
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) is a national initiative
- working with ICC on grants to fund STEM classes
- Melissa stated that algebra skills of students seem to be low and a lot is re-taught
- State is revising math, looking at integrating algebra K-12
- Staff Development and textbooks will be the challenge to revising math
- Melissa pointed out that most of the southern states teach 3 years of chemistry
- it is a given that she spends time teaching math before starting actual chemistry

Industrial Tech:

Dale Christy reported – Tim Larson was not available

- Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce Tech Ed offerings need to be pushed (see handout)
- Concern – decrease in staff – from 10 down to 5.8 – five staff are full time
- Would like to offer more courses but feel they are stretched too thin
- Bigfork not mentioned – teacher there 6/10 time
- Project “Lead the Way” – see handout
- Comments – is there any communication between students, counselors, parents and employers? IASC is doing this in baby steps
- The changing of the high school classes are because of requests from employers, they require more math, science, reading)
- The classes are lower #'s due to safety. Tech teachers cut due to low #'s

Discussion:

- somewhat new idea – extending class day/year to accommodate students who want the credit, but don't have the time
- Phy Ed is currently holding one class before school
- Team teach Industrial Tech and Science together
- Community Ed like classes – people pay for class offerings
- Landscape/design class in Industrial Tech count as an art credit

MAP:

- RIT score – measures growth for individual students from fall to spring in Reading and Math
- Lora explained how to read District Summary and RIT scores
- Char will bring final draft of MCA's next month

Our School's Report Card:

- Online survey closed on 11/27/06. Hard copies will be entered until December 6. Will accumulate data in the weeks following December 6.

Lora handed out cumulative data – District Summary Report

Next Meeting:

**Tuesday, December 19, 2006
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
ISD 318's Administrative Services Building**

Respectfully Submitted,
Jacy Morgan & Jodi Weston

Attachment: SA Report – Curriculum Review