

Instructional Council Minutes

February 2014

Meeting attendance: Maria Aguiniga, Mark Atkins, Barbara Bettis, Chris Bucchi, Cheryl DeRoo, Carl Draeger, Kathy Duchaj, Sara Elwood, Heather Fodor, Dominique Garcia, Raheem Hasan, Judy Havemann, William Jackson, Jackie Johnson, Carol Mammoser, Josefina Melendez, Kelly O'Brien, Lisa Olsem, Craig Pflueger, Claudia Sanchez, Katie Stan, Esperanza Villareal-Ortiz, Rita Weber, Jennifer Williamson, Mary Wojtczak

Absent: Cyndee Fralick, Wilma Valero

Guests/Observers:

January Minutes reviewed/revised and approved with 24 yes, none opposed, 1 abstained.

Action Items

None

Discussion of Next Steps/ Reminder of Possible Updates to Contract Language

- IC Steering Committee reviewed exit slips from January meeting. No opposition was expressed regarding member participating in proposal presentations and discussions after presentation.
- IC members need to keep in mind they are representing people and decisions should not be based on personal feelings.
- In light of the new ETA contract, the council should consider adding an Early Childhood member to the council. If the council decides to add language to the ETA contract regarding IC, all of the IC council should agree on the changes being requested.
- Questions or suggestions regarding ETA contract language should be entered on the exit slip for IC steering committee to review.

CTE Course Updates

- Carol DePue presented PowerPoint presentation on the CTE courses.
- The new curriculum will provide professional development.
- CTE Curriculum aligns to the ELA and Math Common Core State Standards, as well as the National Standards and the National Technology Standards.
- CTE classes have onsite training. Example: Plan menus, catering, restaurant services to staff and the public, plan lessons for pre-school,
- Learning exists beyond the classroom. Example: internships, competitions, State, local and National.
- All CTE courses are elective classes.
- With Healthcare Science internships are available as opposed to co-work. During the current economic difficulties, it was more challenging to place students.
- Technology continues to be challenging.

- All CTE rooms have WIFI capability including wireless projectors and tablets.
- This year the Instructional Technology Coach offered numerous PD sessions. These sessions are posted on Coursewhere.
- CTE continues to experiment with the time of offerings of PD. After school hours are not always convenient for teachers.
- A goal of CTE is to give students the opportunity to have secondary training.

Data Warehouse

- The current data warehouse system is being discontinued as of June 30, 2014.
- Data warehouse had been used to chart student academic performance to assist in determining student interventions or gifted services.
- Four vendors sent the district proposals to be considered for the new data warehouse. After checking references, having hands on demos and viewing the company's history, Versifit was chosen to become the district's new data warehouse program. Versifit was approved by the School Board on November 4 2014. The contract was signed on December 9th.
- Versifit will be supplying all of the training.
- Versifit will need to meet the following milestone dates in order to receive payment from the district.
 - Stage 1 – Design 2/5
 - Stage 2- Development 3/31
 - Stage 3 Testing – 4/20
 - Stage 4 Deployment – 5/20
- Brian Lindholm will be the key person in helping to provide professional development to teachers.
- Teachers will have a dashboard with data that can be customized.
- Teachers will be able to run reports that are helpful to them. Reports available will likely be the same across the district in order to maintain consistency across the district.

Gifted Update

- The SWAS name has been eliminated; the program will now be called the Gifted and Talented program.
- The core of the gifted program are grades 4 – 6, the program changes will only affect the incoming 4th grade students.
- Implementation year will be 2015-2016
- Identification process developed a pool of items to identify.
 - Ability Assessments
 - Achievement assessments
 - Teacher rating scales
 - Principal nominations
 - Grades 1-3 talent development program information
 - Goal of Increased Diversity in Gifted Population
- There is also an appeals committee
 - Review and reevaluation of students whose parents request an appeal.
- PD will be offered to everyone, not just the teachers who are directly involved in the identification process.
- PD might be offered at staff meetings, and a two week training PD is being offered this summer for teachers and administrators.

- All Gifted teachers will be required to have an ESL endorsement.
- Sites have not been identified for this upcoming school year.
- There have been 186 students identified for the program. The number may fluctuate, because of the mobility in the district.
- The teacher survey will focus on four areas this year. It will be used again next year, but after that a shortened form will be created.
- If a student rejects the program, but then decide they want to enroll, they will be allowed to get in the program.
- The 6th grade identification process will change for the upcoming school year. A similar system will be used. Not all 6th grade students will be tested.
- There is no waiting list to get into the program; if a student is identified they are in the program.
- Council member is concerned 3rd graders are taking too many standardized tests. Question was raised to move the Cognat testing to 2nd grade. The district is looking into how many times a students are being tested in a school year.

Bartlett Academy Update

- All academy students complete 12 hours of the STEM Exploration.
- All seniors complete a 40 hours of a STEM internship.
- Many students compete nationally/state/ globally.
- 100 % of the students took at least one AP exam.
- In 2014, 11 students achieved the Platinum Level Awards.
- Colin Besch was selected as a team leader from the class of 2013. He is the first freshman at Iowa State to get this honor.
- Student Advisory Council consists of six representatives from each grade level
 - They are responsible for events that occur throughout the district.
 - Forums occur so that students may share their experiences. Students offer topics for the forum.
- The forum changed this year, as this year graduates are return and make presentations to the students. Graduates discuss the usefulness of the Curriculum.
- Destination imagination team is a group of women who invite students to discuss and explore with math and Science.

Summary Statements

The Instructional Council received an update on recently approved CTE courses.

The Instructional Council received information regarding on our new Data Warehouse.

The Instructional Council received an update on changes to the Gifted Program which will be reviewed by the Board of Education on Monday February 24, 2014.

The Instructional Council received an update on the Bartlett Academy.