

Riverview School District

Education Committee Meeting Notes

October 4, 2010

7:00 – 9:00 PM Central Office Conference Room

Present at the meeting: Dr. Stein, Mr. DeMario, Mr. Hackworth, Mrs. Ashbaugh, Mrs. Dolan (7:10)

Absent: Ms. Shearon, Dr. Loeffler, Mr. Kadylak, Mr. Hornsby

Others Present: Dr. Erdeljac, Mr. Moser, Mr. Hadley, Mr. Shoaf, Mr. Zolkowski, Ms. Wiegand, Mrs. Black, Mr. & Mrs. DiPietro

AGENDA:

- **2009 – 2010 PSSA Data Review and Instructional Implications**

District: Review of AYP student proficiency targets for 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014; overview of district PSSA results in reading and mathematics (L. Black), Reivew of IEP subgroup (S. Wiegand), Review of Economically Disadvantaged (ED) subgroup (L. Black). RSD met all AYP targets, throughout the district, this year.

Junior Senior High School: Review of Jr/Sr High reading and mathematics, grades 7, 8 and 11 (J. Moser and J. Hadley)

Tenth Street Elementary School: Review of Tenth Street reading and mathematics, grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 (D. Zolkowski)

Verner Elementary School: Review of Verner reading and mathematics, grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 (J. Shoaf)

- **Informational Items**
 - **6 - 12 Math Program Implementation Update**

Discussion of the most recent implementation of 6 - 12 math programs, which has been a combination of consultant classroom visits/feedback meetings, site visitations, teacher planning meetings, administrative observations, district professional development days, student/parent questions/concerns and role of Common Core Standards
 - **September 20th Professional Development Day**

Review of elementary and secondary agendas for September 20th PD Day. The PD Committee has met to review feedback from this professional development and will meet again next week to plan for October 18th. Dr. Erdeljac discussed the practice of many surrounding districts to

provide teachers with additional PD time in the form of student early dismissals or late starts.

- **Grades 7 and/or 8 Mid-term Examinations**

After meeting with grade 7/8 teachers, Mr. Moser presented a request to discontinue 7th and 8th grade mid-terms for this year. Teachers are incorporating more formative assessment which makes mid-terms redundant in some cases. On-going review is provided in many curricula through "spiraling." Also, with so much content, core areas in particular need to pay attention to pacing. The Board members who were present agreed to suspend 7/8 midterms for this year. Mr. Moser will work with Mr. Dunkle to make appropriate revisions to Gradebook.

- **Science Curriculum Review**

Mr. Ludwig, Science Department Chair, submitted a thorough plan outlining science department goals for the year. Of particular interest was the Math/Science Collaborative modeling method in which both Mr. Ludwig and Mrs. Carson were formally trained. They hope to share these strategies with the rest of the department this year.

- **Secondary Life Skills Program**

Ms. Wiegand discussed the new secondary life skills program which currently impacts three students, with others possible through pending evaluations.

- **Beechwood Farms/Guyasuta Grade 5 Environmental Experience**

An evaluation of the Beechwood Farms/Guyasuta 5th grade experience is underway. Teachers, paras, parents and other sponsors are completing an evaluation form provided by Trish O'Neill. The results will be analyzed at an upcoming meeting. The Board reminded us to pay particular attention to the instructional strengths/needs of the Beechwood experience as compared to Camp Lutherlyn. A decision for next year's program is pending.

- **Grade 9 Netbook/Adele Weitz**

Netbooks have arrived. The parent letter/FAQ will be sent. Parent overviews will be scheduled. Grade 9 teachers need professional development in 21st century technology skills and the appropriate use of netbooks. Mr. Moser and Mr. Hadley presented a proposal to engage Adele Weitz, former CFF Coach, in a consulting contract for 30 days at \$300.00/day to support teachers in this important initiative. Four of the Board members present expressed their support. Dr. Erdeljac will place this item on the Study Session agenda.

- **STEAM Grant**

RSD STEAM study group members Linda Rosenstock, Steve Rowe, Karla Gearhart, Diane Lohr, Jason Shoaf, David Zolkowski and Lynn Black participated in the first collaborative meeting with Fox Chapel SD, North Hills SD, ASSET and the Childrens Museum last week. The grant focuses on the commonalities of student observation, questioning and critiquing in the content areas of science and art.

- **Targeted Assistance**

Elementary after-school targeted assistance is scheduled to begin Tuesday, October 12th. Mr. Shoaf, Mr. Zolkowski and Mrs. Black are working to select teachers, students and instructional materials for these math and reading programs.

- **Common Core Standards/Keystone Examinations**

In October and November, RSD students will participate in DRC field tests for elementary reading and science and secondary (Keystone) field tests for Algebra, Biology and Literature. Participation in these electronic assessments will provide us with a look at assessment content, as well as help us to assess district capacity for online testing.

Next Education Committee Meeting: November 1, 2010

Dr. Stein suggested that we begin the November 1 meeting with a look at the PSSA Writing and Science data.