

## Riverview School District

### Education Committee Meeting Notes

Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>      7:00 - 8:35 PM      Central Office Conference Room

Present: Dr. Stein, Dr. Loeffler, Mr. Hackworth, Mr. Kadylak, Mrs. Ashbaugh, Mrs. Dolan

Absent: Ms. Shearon, Mr. DeMario, Mr. Hornsby, Dr. Erdeljac

Others Present: Mr. Tillman, Dr. McClure, Mr. Moser, Mr. Hadley, Mr. Shoaf, Mr. Zolkowski, Ms. Wiegand, Mr. Dunkle, Mrs. Black

We would like to thank Dr. Mary Kay Stein for her years of service as Chairperson for the Education Committee. We have appreciated her expertise, professionalism, dedication, and support. We will miss you!

#### AGENDA:

- **Mathematics Update**  
Mrs. Black updated the Board on math events since August. These include the hiring of Mrs. Ellie Ratliff as a secondary math teacher, three district professional development days, secondary classroom visitations by Dr. Peg Smith (report due November 14<sup>th</sup>), implementation of the EDM E-Suite as a pilot at elementary, an EdComm presentation by Dr. Briars and Dr. Stein recommending that we "stay the course," attendance by Mrs. Ratliffe at the Knowles Science Teaching Foundation meeting in Kansas City and parent math events at both elementary and secondary. Mrs. Dolan and Mrs. Ashbaugh had questions about secondary assessment, particularly for Alg I and Pre Alg: Are content-based assessments (CBAs) timed? Shouldn't students have as much time as they need to complete these classroom tests? Why are students not permitted to bring assessments home to share with parents? Mr. Moser and Mr. Hadley will address these questions with the secondary math department at their next meeting.
- **Pennsylvania's New Teacher Evaluation System**  
Mrs. Black presented an overview of the new PA Teacher Evaluation Rubric which will most likely be implemented next year (2012-2013), as mandated by PDE. The form is a response to PDE concerns that the vast majority of PA teachers (99.4% in 2009-10) were rated "satisfactory" while significantly fewer PA students scored proficient/advanced on PSSAs. The new form requires teachers to gather documentation to substantiate their attainment of mastery in four domains, as defined by the Charlotte Danielson *Framework for Effective Teaching* model: Planning/Preparation; Classroom Environment; Instruction; Professional Responsibilities. The admin team described the professional development that has occurred on the August, September and October district PD days to prepare teachers for this significant change in how they will be evaluated.

Mrs. Black update the Board on district progress with SWPBIS (Schoolwide Positive Behavior Interventions and Strategies). The district core team, comprised of administrators and building reps, met on 11/7 with AIU consultants Carrie Frohnafel and Leanna Lawson to begin planning. Building core team meetings will occur on December 12 and 13. Teacher response to this initiative has been very positive.

- Focus on Special Education
  - Parent Support Group Meetings
  - Indicator 13

Ms. Wiegand provided the Board with documents describing the comprehensive parent support group meetings which have been held/will be held this year. These meetings are listed on the district website. Parents have indicated their appreciation for these opportunities to meet. She also described the professional development which the secondary sp ed teachers have received concerning Indicator 13 (secondary transition) and IEP development. Dr. Loeffler encouraged the secondary guidance counselors to develop an educational and career plan for each student.

- Focus on Verner Elementary
  - Title I Reading and Mathematics
  - Technology / STEAM Grant
  - Targeted Assistance

Mr. Shoaf discussed the successes of the Title I program at Verner. Although the Title I staff has been reduced from four to three, they have been busy streamlining mandated assessments, gathering data, consulting with building teachers, reaching out to parents and providing professional development in both math and literacy. He also provided an update on the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) grant which the elementary buildings received from the Grable and Benedum Foundations again this year. Significant results have been observed in terms of teacher questioning, cross-curricular connections and the use of technology. Mr. Shoaf also reviewed Verner's Targeted Assistance program. Students are receiving additional time in both math and reading. The after-school program serves students in grades 1 - 6. A math enrichment program for students in grade 6 is getting started. Little Linguists meet on Wednesdays. The Science Club is meeting again this year.

- Focus on Tenth Street Elementary
  - Everyday Math E-Suite
  - Type to Learn 4
  - Targeted Assistance
  - Building Safety Plan/Coordinator Update

Mr. Zolkowski provided updates on the topics above, as well as the School Climate Surveys which have been administered to parents and students. The EDM E-Suite provides K - 5 math teachers with online lesson planning, progress monitoring opportunities, online benchmark assessments and access to EDM games. Mrs. Waffensmith, Mrs. Telin and Mrs. Selwood provided teacher pd on 11/7. Type to Learn has also been implemented in both elementary buildings, providing explicit, sequenced keyboarding practice for students in grades K - 6. Mr. Z reported that Tenth Street teachers are taking their classes to the Computer Lab for this instruction. Targeted Assistance at Tenth street provides instruction for 28 students in grades 3 - 6. Mr. Z also described the good work being done by TS Building Safety Coordinator Mrs. Lori Brickner. Mrs. Dolan mentioned that she attended the district Safety Meeting held by Dr. Erdlejac last month and that she was impressed by the dedication and professionalism demonstrated by the three building Safety Coordinators. Finally, Mr. Z provided samples of the parent and student climate surveys which are being administered.

- Focus on Riverview Junior Senior High School
  - AP Achievement District Honor Roll
  - Keystone Examinations
  - School Improvement Team and Report
  - Grade 12 PSSA Retests for Reading and Mathematics
  - Common Core State Standards/Increased Rigor in English Language Arts
  - Data Analysis for Reading and Math/Targeted Assistance
  - Planned Course Updates for Science, Foreign Languages, Social Studies and Business

Mr. Moser and Mr. Hadley discussed all of the topics above. The Jr/Sr High has been selected for the AP Achievement Honor Roll for the second year in a row. Parent letters concerning student performance on the Keystone Algebra I Exam have been sent. All students who took the Exam have met graduation requirements for proficiency, regardless of the level obtained. PDE has declared a moratorium on Keystone Examinations for the 2011-12 school year, so no exams will be given this year. Mr. Moser discussed formation of a School Improvement Team to draft the Improvement Plan required by PDE for schools in "warning" due to failure to meet AYP. That plan will be shared with the Board in the spring before being submitted to PDE. Current 12<sup>th</sup> graders who failed to achieve proficiency on math and reading PSSAs as juniors took the Grade 12 retests on October 31<sup>st</sup>, a day which was scheduled as a student "day off." Mr. Moser reported that students are beginning to take the PSSA tests more seriously. Targeted assistance, both during the school day and after school, has been provided for these students since the beginning of the year. A targeted assistance program for students non-proficient on the reading PSSA will begin soon. Both the math and English departments have used recent PD time to analyze student data and recommend students for assistance. Mr. Hadley discussed the increased rigor required by the Common Core State Standards for English/Language Arts. The English department has been investigating some changes in the texts which students will be required to read, based on the new Standards, which will be fully implemented beginning in 2013. Finally, Mr. Moser provided updates on the progress of planned course revisions for the science, foreign language, social studies and business departments. All planned courses will be shared with the Board by the end of the year.

Dr. Stein thanked the administrative team and the Board for the work that has been done during her tenure as chairperson for the Ed Comm committee and wished us well in future endeavors.

The meeting ended at 8:35.

The next Ed Comm meeting will be in January.