

**Riverview School District**

**Education Committee Meeting Notes**

**May 17, 2010**

Present: Dr. Stein, Ms. Shearon, Mr. Hackworth, Mrs. Dolan, Mrs. Ashbaugh, Dr. Loeffler, Mr. Hornsby

Absent: Mr. DeMario, Mr. Kadylak

Others Present: Dr. Erdeljac, Mr. Moser, Mr. Shoaf, Mrs. Friday, Mr. Winkler, Mrs. Black

**AGENDA:**

- **Mathematics Programs for 2010-2011 Implementation**

Mr. Moser, Mr. Shoaf and Mrs. Black presented an overview of the results of the grades 6 - 12 math teachers' search for new instructional materials for the 2010-2011 school year. After a lengthy investigation, during which programs were thoroughly researched with Dr. Briars and Ms. Sinopoli and implementation sites consulted/visited, two programs were selected from the ten considered. Those are *Connected Math Program 2* for grades 6 and 7 and *Discovering Algebra* for Algebra I, *Discovering Geometry* for Geometry and *Discovering Advanced Algebra* for Algebra II. Topics discussed included program content, philosophy, scope/sequence, anticipated costs, teacher professional development, master schedule, parent involvement and program monitoring. As is typical with the adoption of any new instructional programs/materials, several teachers have expressed sincere concerns, particularly with beginning CMP2 in grade 6 as opposed to grade 7. Mr. Moser, Mr. Shoaf and Mrs. Black commented that they are aware of these concerns and will work together with the two new elementary principals to meet all student and teacher needs. Dr. Erdeljac thanked the administrative team and teachers for their excellent work on this initiative. The Board expressed support of program choices and implementation plans.

- **Elementary Science Field Study Revisions**

Mr. Winkler reviewed proposed changes in the grade 5 environmental experience. He and Mrs. Friday are recommending a shift from the three-day, overnight Camp Lutherlyn format to a three-day, day only Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve experience. Elementary science facilitators Linda Rosenstock and Steve Rowe have worked with Mr. Winkler to plan for next year. June, 2010 will be the last date for Camp Lutherlyn.

- **PSAT Proposal for All Juniors**

Mr. Moser, Mr. Shoaf and Mrs. Black requested Board approval for a plan to have all juniors take the PSAT in October, beginning in the fall of 2010, with the district covering the \$13.00 per student fee. Making the PSAT mandatory should contribute to the building of a college-going culture at the Jr/Sr High. Registering all students in the PSAT system also permits access to comprehensive assessment, college/career and test prep resources. After some discussion, it was decided that the district would provide PSAT fees for all juniors and sophomores for next year only. Following that, the district will provide the fees for all sophomores each year. Dr. Stein and Ms. Shearon urged the Jr/Sr High administrators to take a close look at students for whom the PSAT may not be an appropriate choice.

- **Proposal for *Language!* Certified Area Trainer**  
Mrs. Black and Mr. Moser presented a proposal to permit Mrs. Kris Yanalitis, secondary Special Education and *Language!* teacher, to begin the process of becoming a certified area trainer for *Language!* Mrs. Yanalitis was recommended for this restricted certification by Mary Landry, a national Cambium/Sopris West trainer. During this 18 month to two year process, Mrs. Yanalitis will be involved in TOT (Training of Trainers) professional development with Cambium/Voyager. After completing this process, Mrs. Yanalitis will be eligible to train and support district *Language!* teachers.
  
- **PE/Health Planned Courses of Study/PDE's Proposed Chapter 12 Physical Education and Nutrition Regulations**  
Review of the PE/Health revised planned courses of study was postponed to allow the PE/Health teachers to have more time on the June professional development days to complete their documents.
  
- **Targeted Assistance Summer Programs**  
Mr. Moser/Mr. Shoaf, Mr. Winkler and Mrs. Friday reviewed the content and anticipated costs of summer targeted assistance programs in their buildings. Mrs. Black presented the total costs for last year's summer programs, as requested by Ms. Shearon.  
Mr. Moser included an additional summer program proposal for a week long Summer RoboCamp. It was determined that students in grades 7 - 12 would NOT be charged for this program as originally suggested by Camp sponsor Mr. McNally. The program will be free, as are all RSD sponsored summer programs.
  
- **Informational Items**
  - **Elementary to Secondary Bridge Events**  
Mrs. Ashbaugh requested consideration of the inclusion of even more programs, particularly academic ones, designed to bring Verner and Tenth Street 6<sup>th</sup> grade students together prior to their entering grade 7.
  - **Master Schedule Update**
  - **STEAM (Science +Technology+Engineering+Arts+Mathematics) Education Grant**  
Ms. Shearon wished Verner and Tenth Street good luck in obtaining this grant.
  - **Wonder of Wonders (WOW) Program/Carnegie Science Center**  
Mr. Winkler and Mrs. Friday have decided to maintain the current Board approved human sexuality program and not implement the Carnegie Science Center WOW Program.
  - *Before It Ends, Schools 'Race' Is a Success* (New York Times, April 8, 2010)
  - *Should Your School Detrack to Close the Achievement Gap ?* (ASCD Education Update, April 2010)