Student Learning & Achievement Committee Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2017

The meeting began at 7:06. In attendance were Becky Malinas, Chad Van Arnham, Bill Wade, Tim Cosgrove, Dr. Campbell and myself.

Crossroads

Prior meeting minutes were approved and discussion began on the Crossroads program. Becky provided background on the purpose of Crossroads, which essentially is a private, non-profit service that is subcontracted out of Mentor which provides both social and emotional support for students that can't be handled by a typical guidance counselor. Two students attend Crossroads full time and we have additional students that receive counseling in the evenings and weekends.

Becky reviewed the process for identifying students that might have these additional needs which includes collaboration between teachers, school counselors and the parents of students identified.

Once a student is identified, Crossroads provides diagnostic services that helps identify the specific needs of each student.

Depending on the financial situation of each student, the district or Medicaid can potentially be responsible for payment of these services. The cost for services is $80 per hour. Varying types of services are provided including individual and group. Also, both female and male service providers are available depending the comfort level and needs of the student.

Needs for these services have increased steadily over the past 4 years. More funds were allocated this year than last year with a current year estimated cost coming at roughly $14k.

Bill commented that public schools across the state are recognizing a common theme in this area of services, in that, students in general are not getting the necessary social and emotional support at home more recently than in years past. The purpose of the Crossroads program is to be able to bridge that gap and provide these services so that students with these types of needs can get the necessary support which allows them to focus on learning while in school as much as possible.

Dr. Campbell noted that the number of high school students dealing with anxiety and stress have increased over the past few years and feedback from the high school counselors is that students are becoming more comfortable about verbalizing their feelings than in the past which does drive up the need for resources but ultimately improves the students disposition and ability to learn.

Becky noted that only about half of the students who are part of the program are identified with an IEP.

School Calendar Draft

Bill provided a draft of the school calendar for next year that will be reviewed at the December 18th board meeting. Approval of the calendar requires two readings. The proposal of the 2018 calendar results in the same number of instructional days, 175, as the current school year.

Some conversation on dates of breaks ensued and the rationale behind the proposed dates were vetted and deemed reasonable and preferential for maximizing student learning.

Testing Document

A testing document that Bill developed which outlines, at a high level, all of the tests that all grades are subject to take throughout their time in the district was reviewed. The document was as clear and concise as possible and outlined the purpose, length, manner and date of all tests presented to students. There was valuable discussion on the purpose and rationale of each test. The document will be presented to our communications coordinator for review before being added to the district website.

Initial Update on Project Lead the Way

Mr. Wade and Dr. Campbell gave a review on a potential 6-8th grade pilot that would present students with curriculum tailored to STEM careers in engineering, computer science and biomedical science. The intention is to familiarize middle school students on these career options and provide a project based learning environment in a structured and well defined manner. Specific tasks and exercises done early in the course would ultimately lead to a final exercise where students are asked to apply these learnings to solve an open ended problem.

This pathway would become part of the current science curriculum and would enhance existing more academic pedagogy with coursework focused more on hands on learning and application in a defined career subject.

The cost is $740 per building to participate. Current districts participating in Project Lead the Way include Mayfield, Mentor and Madison.

Online Math Resources

Dr. Campbell reviewed recent work math teachers in grades 6-12 have done to research additional instructional options that will allow them to differentiate instruction better than current curriculum. Envision, from Pearson, is the new curriculum that they are focusing on. Envision allows for more modeling and reasoning that is tailored to specific student needs and allows teachers to pull down content that is either more advanced or more remedial based on specific student performance and ability. This online content resource is still being discussed and no final decision has been made to purchase and use, it was simply part of the agenda purely for discussion purposes at this point.

Some conversation ensued about the future of online resources in curriculum and how it eases the workload on teachers from an activity and curriculum development perspective and allows them to focus more on teaching. More discussion to come on this and other online curriculum options in the future.

AP Honor Roll District

Finally, Dr. Campbell discussed our recent AP Honor Roll participation and performance rates and the meeting was adjourned at 8:21am.