

October 28, 2013

School Board Education Committee

Centennial Administration Building Board Room

**Minutes**

**PRESENT:**

**Committee Members:** Mrs. Schrader Lynch, Mrs. Betty Huf, Mr. Charles Kleinschmidt, Mr. Mark B. Miller

**Board Members:** Mr. Steve Adams, Mr. Michael Hartline

**Staff:** Dr. Joyce Mundy, Mrs. Jennifer Polinchock, Mr. Mike Johnson, Mrs. Paula Voshell, Dr. Michael Devitt, Dr. Bucky Clark, Mr. Dan Julius, Mrs. Keely Mahan, Mr. Michael VanBuren, Mr. Michael Donnelly, Mr. Brian Swank, Dr. Susan Klyman, Ms. Sarah Totans

**Community:** Mr. Robert Shaffer, Mrs. Leigh Lieberman, Mr. Paul Rokuskie

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. There was an introduction of all in attendance.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of September 23, 2013 by Mrs. Huf, seconded by Mr. Miller. The motion passed 3-0 to approve the minutes.

**Presentation of Title I Summer Academy**

Mr. Michael Donnelly, principal of Willow Dale Elementary School, introduced Ms. Sarah Totans, special education teacher at Willow Dale, who spoke about the Centennial Summer Academy.

Ms. Totans explained that this past summer they had 8 full day classes and 5 half day classes. Some of the activities they had included guest readers, a visit from librarians and a children's author. Ms. Totans explained that the students created a yearbook and on the final day the students did a Reader's Theatre play.

Ms. Totans spoke about the gains the children made in literacy and math skills from the beginning of the summer to the end of the program. Mrs. Huf asked about the number of students who attended during the summer. Ms. Totans said they had 130 students, 12 students per class. Mrs. Huf asked about parent support. Ms. Totans explained that while they did not assign homework, the response from parents was very positive.

Mrs. Schrader Lynch asked if we would be able to track the progress of the students who attended. Dr. Mundy responded that yes, we will continue to monitor their progress.

### **Elementary and Middle School PSSA/PVAAS 2012-2013 Presentations**

Mrs. Jennifer Polinchock, Director of Teaching and Learning, explained that she would give a broad overview by grade level of how our students in grades 3-8 did in the PSSA tests. She compared figures from the spring of 2012, spring of 2013 and how Centennial did as compared to the state. She also explained that PVAAS data shows us how a student grows over time.

For the PSSA reading and math scores, most our students performed at or above the state average in proficient and advanced proficient categories. Grade 8 is where we see our most positive data.

With regard to science, there is a need to sequence the curriculum. There was a slight decrease in the proficient category. The results in writing are not as good as the District would like, so that will be a focus across all curriculum areas this year.

Mrs. Schrader Lynch said she is concerned about the students who scored basic and below basic in reading. What are we doing for the students in grade 3 that we are not doing for the students in grade 5? Mrs. Polinchock explained that the nature of the test changes from grade 3 to grade 5. There are longer and more complicated passages for the students to read on the grade 5 test. She explained that what we need to do is to provide more intensive support earlier in the elementary grades to help our students.

Mrs. Schrader Lynch asked about what we are doing for the average student. Mrs. Polinchock said that we need to put more supports in place and that everyone shares the universal concern about reaching the average student.

With regard to positive trends, Mrs. Polinchock explained that students moved from proficient to the advanced proficient category. We are looking at the reading program that we have now and determining if we need more professional development for the teachers.

Dr. Mundy pointed out that our students' growth over time is strong and reminded the Committee that the PSSA scores is a snapshot in time of how the students are doing. Many factors influence how the students do on the tests.

Mrs. Paula Voshell, principal of Davis Elementary School, did a presentation about the PSSA/PVAAS scores of the students at Davis. She is very proud of the science scores, but the writing scores were disappointing. Mrs. Voshell noted that there was significant growth in math for grades 4 and 5. The students made more than one year's growth. To summarize Davis, math scores show consistent growth. Reading and writing are areas of need. Science results are positive. Mrs. Voshell indicated they plan to implement writing across all content areas. Davis will continue implementation of Read 180 and

System 44 for reading interventions and look at differentiation of math instruction to address the needs of higher performing math students.

Mr. Miller want to see the students' scores on a curve. He suggested that we have this information in February on an individualized basis. He also asked about having a literacy contest at the elementary schools.

Mrs. Keely Mahan, principal of McDonald Elementary School, spoke about the scores at McDonald. She said the students met the growth measure for math, exceeded the growth measure for reading, met the growth measure for science, and exceeded the growth measure for writing. The PVAAS data showed that McDonald students are making adequate growth in all subjects in fourth and fifth grade. Since the math scores are higher than the reading scores, they plan to focus on spending the majority of their intervention time on reading, use data team meetings to inform decisions about instruction, use ST math to supplement math instruction, and to continue to use Read 180 and System 44 for reading interventions.

Mr. Paul Rokuskie asked about the plans for professional development. Mrs. Mahan responded that teachers are giving up their planning period once per month to have professional development on various topics. Dr. Mundy noted that we will come up with a professional development calendar, possibly in December.

Mr. Michael Donnelly, principal of Willow Dale Elementary School, spoke about the scores of the students at Willow Dale. He noted that they are seeing extensive growth in the areas of math and science. Writing scores are not as good and is a K-5 level concern. Teachers at Willow Dale are working across grade levels to improve the writing program. They are continuing to meet as Data Teams to work on intervention and enrichment activities during the WIN (What I Need) period. They have an after school reading club, writing club, and started a TV channel for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders who will write their own articles.

Mr. Dan Julius, Assistant Principal of Log College Middle School, talked about the scores at Log College. Log met the standard for growth in math and reading, but not in science. Writing scores are good and Log College exceeded the standard for growth in the area of writing. He indicated that targeted interventions and enrichment are needed to better address student needs.

Mr. Michael Johnson, Principal of Klinger Middle School, talked about the scores at Klinger. Students at Klinger met the growth measure for math, reading, science and writing. Mr. Johnson said that the percentage of students who score in the basic and below basic categories is too high and they plan to address this. They plan to work on targeted interventions and analyze student data to make data-based decisions,

**CSSCA Data Performance Updates 2013-2014**

Mrs. Polinchock explained that the schedule has been provided and Mr. Best will give an update at a future meeting.

Mrs. Polinchock noted that the high school data on Keystone test scores will be presented at the next Education Committee meeting, which is November 25, 2013.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf, seconded by Mr. Miller to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed, 3-0 and the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



Mrs. Jennifer A. Polinchock  
Director of Teaching and Learning