

Broad Based Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2013

Committee Members Present

Jeff Osterman, Mandy Sparzo, Frank Meyer, Allison West, Lori Taylor, Jenni Gullion, Ginger Davis, Leslie Kimery, Luke Kimery, Michelle Hadley, Tracy Wheeler, Nicole Harris, Robert Brown, Megan Schneider, Laura Samide, Kevin Gray, Greg Dana, Dr. Maryanne McMahon and Venetia Faulkenberg.

Minutes

The meeting began at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 15, 2013. Venetia Faulkenberg welcomed everyone for their dedication to this group.

Venetia Faulkenberg gave an update on the ID procedures and timeline. Currently we are still working with the grades 7-12 program and should be ready to present to the group this Spring. The administrators are working with high ability consultants for these grades.

Mrs. Faulkenberg reminded everyone that we have replaced the OLSAT with the CogAT test. All kindergarten students took a screener in the fall. With the results back, we were then able to administer a full battery version of the CogAT to 122 kindergarten students. This will help identify high ability students at an earlier level.

The second grade students have completed the CogAT as well, and the fourth grade students should be taking the test this month. Also, all sixth grade students will take the CogAT this month. The reason for this is to help identify high ability students in both language arts and math categories. Both fourth and sixth graders are taking the CogAT for the next two years, because they will not have taken the CogAT as second graders, and we want to have CogAT scores for all students as they move into the high school level.

Jeff Osterman mentioned that the current Algebra students in eighth grade will take the CogAT. This will help the identification of students with high ability skills in mathematics. Counselors will be able to schedule our current eighth grade students in the proper math classes for high school with the help of the results from the CogAT and also, the student's NWEA scores.

Frank Meyer commented that the high school currently uses the following means to place students in ACE classes: if they are high ability students already, NWEA scores, courses they are in now, and lastly, ISTEP scores. Other math honors courses are open to all students at the high school. Last year, he noted, that 30% of students who graduated had participated in honors classes while in high school. Dr. McMahon mentioned that 23% of middle school students are enrolled in high ability classes. Mr. Meyer discussed how these classes help prepare our students for collegiate work in their future.

Lori Taylor questioned if the sixth grade CogAT scores would be replacing the need for students to take the Orleans-Hannah or OLSAT test. Venetia Faulkenberg discussed how having multiple levels of testing will help identify the correct students in high ability classes and the CogAT will definitely replace the OLSAT. The Orleans-Hannah, along with NWEA, will remain for identifying students going into Algebra.

Mrs. Faulkenberg updated the group on grades three to six high ability math curriculum development. Megan Schneider, Tracy Wheeler, and Lori Taylor were in a workshop earlier in the day working on this topic. They agreed that the additional work to the curriculum will help with the transition to common core assessments. Students are given "real life situations" and given the skills necessary to know how to perform these tasks.

Dr. Maryanne McMahon gave an update on grades three through eight reading textbook adoption. Grades three through six are currently piloting materials that are on the state approved adoption lists. As for grades seven and eight, the state has not released a list of approved materials yet. We are waiting for that list to be released. Because of this delay, we will hold off on the reading textbook adoption for the middle school grades. The state will allow us a full year to pilot materials for our high ability classes both on the adoption list and from other high ability publishers.

A reminder of the dates of the next two meetings was announced. We will next meet on Tuesday, March 19th. The last meeting of the year was changed to Monday, May 13, 2013.

Mrs. Faulkenberg asked for any questions or concerns. None offered, the meeting was split into the two committee groups for group project work.

The meeting was concluded by 8:00 p.m.