

Broad Based Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

April 23, 2012

Committee Members Present

Mandy Sparzo, Kalie Naas, Frank Meyer, Robert Brown, Lori Taylor, Jenni Gullion, Kevin Gray, Ginger Davis, Leslie Kimery, Luke Kimery, Jeff Osterman, Michelle Hadley, Greg Dana, Venetia Faulkenberg and Dr. Maryanne McMahon.

Minutes

The meeting began at 6:31 p.m. on Monday, April 23, 2012. Mrs. Faulkenberg welcomed everyone and thanked them for their work. Mrs. Faulkenberg opened the floor to the sub-committee chairs to report on the progress each group made this year.

The first committee, Guidance and Counseling Plan, was co-chaired by Kevin Gray, Principal of Cedar Elementary School, and Frank Meyer, Assistant Principal of Avon High School. Mr. Gray discussed how the group was started last year and one of the goals was to bring in a guest speaker. On January 30, 2012, Dr. Jean Peterson came to Avon and spoke with four individual groups on the affective needs of high ability students. She spoke to counselors, teachers, administrators, and then parents. The committee discussed that it may be wise in the future to have a mainstream topic, followed by a more focused topic the following year.

Mr. Meyer addressed the group about a flip chart that the group has been working on. This chart is intended to assist parents and students transition through each school's high ability program. With changes currently being made in the program, it was decided to wait on distributing the charts or posting on the website at this time.

Mrs. Faulkenberg discussed the focus being on common core standards when developing the curriculum. Avon changed the testing instrument for all second graders this year, going from OLSAT to CogAT. The CogAT gives more specific information identifying student strengths. This way we can better serve our students whose strengths may be math only or language arts only, as well as students with strengths in both math and language arts.

Dr. McMahon explained the adjustments to the high ability program at the elementary level. Next year, the elementary schools will be able to develop structures to fit each building's high ability needs. The buildings will operate under the same curricular program, with different structures of service. Math and English will be at the same times in each building, so students will be able to switch classrooms easily to best suit their individual needs.

Students will begin to be identified as “potential” high ability students in kindergarten and then again in 2nd grade. This will establish a strong rationale for those identified for the program in grades 3 and 4, eliminating a need to re-identify when moving into grades 5-8.

Dr. McMahon represented the Program Assessment sub-committee group. The group subdivided to hold focus groups representing students, parents and staff at each building level. At the elementary level, the data showed that the students were stressed about disappointing their parents. At the intermediate and middle school levels, the information suggested that the students were more concerned about the social implications about being labeled high ability and not having enough time in the school day to interact with the general population. High school students discussed the fact that time management was a big issue.

Ginger Davis, Assistant Principal of Avon Middle School North, reported on the findings of the Resources sub-committee. There is a need to expand the high ability website for current and upcoming parents. Parents would like to see dates posted for upcoming evaluations on the website in the future.

Mrs. Faulkenberg reviewed the 2012-13 goals. She thanked all the committee members for their participation and dedication to the high ability program. The meeting concluded at 7:15 p.m.