

Academic Affairs
Administration Building Board Room
Wednesday, March 3, 2021
5:45 p.m. (Virtual)
Minutes

In attendance: Larry Stern, Rita Spinelli, David Bradley, Tim Tkach, Jonathan Cleaver, Jan Wentz, Lauren Cortright, Same Kistler, Mark McGalla, Melissa Volcskai, Aaron Sebelin, Sue Howland

- I.) Update on the SEL program initiative at the Elementary Center
 - a. Mrs. Kistler talks about the updates to the SEL program
 - Beginning talks, using a guidance from Cassel (researched based), that helps school in a sequential path.
 - Formulate a team
 - Starting to branch out with another team with guidance, some administration and social workers, working on a shared vision
 - In faculty meetings at the elementary center today, SEL was introduced to teachers
 - There will be a survey going out asking them what areas they see a need while formulating the program
 - Monthly themes, implemented in classrooms, IU possible pilot program
 - Professional development for staff
 - Mrs. Cortright stated that they are excited to be in the pre planning stages, starting on a small level and not to be overwhelming. Getting input from staff and keeping it simple. Work our way up to get family involvement as well as community.
 - Discussed faculty meetings and act 80 days for more training and development
 - Big thing is that we want to make sure we are doing this effectively and giving the resources that teachers need.
 - Mrs. Kistler has found great resources and has been fantastic with communicating those to staff
 - Mr. Sebelin echo's what others have stated this evening. We are excited to start with the core team.
 - Mrs. Volcskai just wanted to say that working with everyone has been very nice. After the shut down last march, noticed things that they would like to get back. This is a step to get back to those things that are lacking from last year.
 - Mr. Bradley commented that he made some suggestions to the agenda and they were not made, should have had public comment/curtesy of the floor for this agenda.
 - Mr. Bradley stated that what he is hearing makes us feel like we need to placate the staff on this, this will be mandated and we should take the lead on this.
 - Mr. Bradley -Is there a problem that I can't get my video on and that I can't get things to make it to the agenda

- Conversation continues between members of the board and panelist on the SEL program
- Mrs. Cortright explains what the teachers do in the classroom and that the SEL certification is an add on that you are required to pay for to receive, not sure if it is possible to require teachers to have this. Yes, train them when they get here. We are simply in the pre planning and what is best for students and then train the teachers. Focus is for the students, figure this out and what is best for them and then we can go from there. We have made a lot of strides in the last month, slow down take a step back. Thank you to the team that has been meeting
- Ms. White asks to please have this program be explained a bit more
- Mrs. Kistler explains the program to Ms. White.
- Ms. White and Mrs. Kistler discuss the SEL program
- Mrs. Wentz made the statement and kudos to the whole team about being so serious and doing it well and not just pushing something out there. Makes sense to have it organized and not just push it out. Thank you
- Mr. Bradley stated that he finds it disrespectful to be muted.
- Mr. Bradley talks about the SEL program more, stated that the district should use his program that he researched and recommended along with the materials he purchased for review.
- Mr. Bradley asks for a recommendation
- Mr. Stern I vote no
- Mrs. Spinelli I vote no, the public has no chance to review things when you bring them the day of either, moving to the next topic
- Discussion continues

II.) PA Assessment Update

- a. Received word last Friday that the window for PSSA and Keystones could be extended
 - Keystones are still being held
 - Looking to go as late as possible for PSSA, did not want to wait until next year
 - Being brought up at the IU and waiting for further direction from the state
 - Focus PSSA first week of June, bring virtual in one day and adhere to all guidelines
 - Mrs. Howland stated that the first wave of keystones is happening at the High School
 - Ms. White asks how to get her student out of PSSA testing
 - Mr. Sebelin is only given for grades 3-5
 - Mr. Bradley you mentioned that you spoke to stakeholders
 - Mr. Tkach stated principals, etc.
 - Mr. Bradley asked why he was not asking parents, students and community members
 - Mr. Tkach we will be going to them we are but we needed a starting point at this time

III.) PSSA and Keystone Update

IV.) Good of the Order

- a. Mr. Bradley I'd like for Mr. Stern to explain why he thinks this is not a committee meeting
- b. Mr. Bradley -Why is Rita the only one who has her camera on.
- c. Mr. Bradley would like to make the statement that this is a committee meeting
- d. Mr. Bradley I have two recommendations formally heard by this committee
- e. Mr. Cleaver –no one is required to make a statement
- f. Mr. Stern we do not need to make a motion to adjourn

Next Meeting; Wednesday, April 7, 2021, 5:45 p.m., Virtual