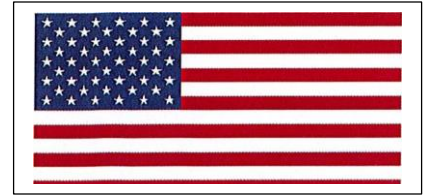


Academic Affairs
Administration Building (Virtual)
February 10, 2021, 5:45 p.m.
Minutes



Meeting called to order at 5:46 p.m.

Following board members in attendance

Rita Spinelli, Nathan Foeller, Larry Stern and David Bradley (audience)

Winter Recovery Numbers at the High School 2020-2021

Mr. Tkach discusses the differences in the years and what is going on with the current year.

Mrs. Howland continues with the topic of winter credit recovery, meaning that the student is struggling in a required course. Winter is one course and Summer is two courses.

Mr. Stern asks if this is across complete demographics. Yes, that is correct

Mrs. Howland explains how the credit recovery works for students.

Mr. Bradley asks about the other pages of this report, says 2 of 7 where are the others and of the 61 letters are truancy issues not just a grade issue.

Mrs. Howland talks about the student attendance improvement plans that are held within the district, meeting weekly, intervention programs, Mrs. Howland explains how the attendance check ins work within the virtual day.

Mr. Bradley asks if there is accuracy within the attendance for technical issues.

Mrs. Howland says that technical issues are waved for students, meet and talk with families every day.

Current LAVA Numbers (K-12) and PA Out of School Cyber Numbers

Mr. Tkach reviews the chart for LAVA and Cyber Schools

Mrs. Howland congratulates the students who have graduated early, there were 18 this year.

Mr. Bradley congratulates the 18 students who have graduated early this year.

Mr. Bradley talks about the papers that show we have an out of district cyber school and the term 'left us', Lehighton area is comprised of all of these schools, they did not leave us they made decisions based upon the needs of their child, agree that in school participation is valuable.

Mr. Sebelin talks about parents and the uncertainty of how the year would work out and many have decided to come back to the building, at the end of each marking period we touch base and talk with the families. Students and staff have done a great job with all the procedures and protocols to remain safe during COVID, which is a big part of why so many may have come back to in session classes.

Mr. Bradley asks if the teachers are able to accept homework in several different ways

Mr. Tkach stated that it was his understanding that the teachers have gone above and beyond with how they are able to receive homework, however a student can get it in, flexible with power outages and all kinds of various circumstances.

Mrs. Howland talks about the high school and that the staff has been very accommodating to families and all of those issues have been worked out.

Mr. Bradley wants to confirm that we are uniform across the district to make sure that the students are able to raise a hand to say they were there, or that they have a way to turn in assignments.

Mr. Bradley discusses the jump in numbers for various grades in cyber schools.

Dr. McGalla discusses how the middle school provides the best education for students no matter what they may look like. Staff is doing a tremendous job with this and that the district has gotten devices for students and worked hard. The PTO has also provided various tools for staff and students.

Possible High School Curriculum/Scheduling Changes for the 2021-2022 SY

Mr. Tkach talks about the Curriculum for the next school year, trying to make the safest and soundest decisions going forward. Still a lot of unknowns with COVID

Mrs. Howland talks about last year's schedule and the March shut down for the 2020-2021 school year. Knew things would be stressful for the students and went back to the block schedule to make that easier. Agree that we should look at the data going forward. as we are proceeding for the next year, course selection needs to start and there is a lot that needs to happen and COVID is still here. Will remain in a block for the next year. Data has been a struggle, small population of CDT sampling, AP only scheduled in the spring, these are some things to think on.

Mr. Bradley asks to have Lauren Cortright to see what she has to say and same with Jan Wentz

Mrs. Howland points out that these are elementary teachers and would be different then the high school

Mr. Tkach says that we will get to the teachers as soon as we get to the end.

Summer School Program (High School & Middle School)

Mr. Tkach touches on the summer school program in the high school and the middle school

Programs and set number of days and hours set by the state

Board has always been good with offering summer programs

Good of the Order

Mrs. Cortright wanted to bring up a few things, she sees students sometimes from the beginning of school until they are in fifth grade and feels that students could benefit from a structured social emotional learning at the elementary level. Wanted to propose what to do and how to handle it and implementing a social/emotional structured learning. Look into starting these skills at a much younger age. Lauren talks about various things that she has been reading on and how it could possibly be incorporated into the students.

Mr. Tkach suggests that she and Mrs. Kistler and himself sit down and discuss what is needed and have some professional development for staff and programs for parents once COVID is no longer an issue.

Mr. Cleaver talks about the social emotional learning and all the resources that are out there and how they would be beneficial to look at.

Mrs. Cortright talks about how teachers see the students having an issue in the classroom and how they don't always have the best ideas or tools to deal with helping the students and thinks that a program would benefit regular ed staff for those moments. Look into doing an SEL curriculum and combine those pieces and mastering them.

Mr. Bradley asks when we hire teachers are we looking at their skill set

Mr. Bradley talks about a person from Rutgers University, and talks about putting our focus on our staff

Mr. Bradley and Mrs. Cortright discuss this further

Mrs. Spinelli talks about what is coming up on our policies and being trauma informed and how as soon as you can deal with situations as they come up the better it can be all around and completely onboard with this program.

Mrs. Wentz wanted to build a bit on what Lauren was talking about and agrees that the social emotional piece is very important. We focus a lot on the educational piece and forget how COVID is effecting the student all around as well as the parents, please consider all of our students and teaching this to all

students. it is more difficult than ever to teach this in a classroom where we cannot be together and they have missed this part of their education, lacking the collaboration skills.

Mr. Tkach stated that we will definitely be taking a look at this.

Mr. Cleaver states that it is important to tap into our local medical professionals as resources for students and parents.

Mr. Tkach discusses a meeting he had last week with LVHN and social workers, principals, and guidance and we are excited to work with them. Also a meeting with the IU and the guidance and bringing back programs

Mr. Bradley still would like to discuss the attendance issues across the board, how we hold the students accountable and how we hold the staff accountable, is there a method or a metric. What are we going to do in that regard?

Mr. Tkach discusses how the principals are taking care of this and how the high school and middle schools are taking care of these issues.

Mrs. Howland sure I can talk again in reference to this, the staff is meeting at least two to three times a week on this topic they are working diligently, is there something specifically you are looking for? We need to following the guidelines of the state in regards to letters going out. We are educating the parents or PowerSchool and have had conferences and discussions with students and parents to correct these issues.

Mr. Bradley had a connection issue, could hear the background noises but he seemed unable to speak.

Mr. Stern and Mrs. Spinelli seem fine with the explanations for attendance at the high school level.

Mr. Kemmerer just wanted to send kudos out to the staff at the high school in regards to his daughter with being on a zoom and his daughter needing to take the younger sibling to school and on a moment's notice made adaptations in regards to this situation. Thank you for that.

Next meeting date: Wednesday, March 3, 2021, 5:45 p.m. virtual