

Academic Affairs Minutes
Wednesday, October 7, 2020
5:45 p.m.
Virtual

In attendance: David Bradley, Larry Stern, Rita Spinelli, Jonathan Cleaver, Melissa Volcskai, Jan Wentz, Aaron Sebelin

I.) District Wide Learning Plans

a.) Elementary:

- K-2 side – Mr. Sebelin is happy with the way that everything has been going for the first month of school
- Students are going five days a week
- Concerns with wearing a mask – but the students are doing a great job
- Students are doing better than adults
- Teachers and staff have done an outstanding job
- Parents have been giving positive feedback
- Other districts have reached out to ask how our program is working, Lehighton has been the model
- Have been able to accommodate the students in the cafeteria- no mask while eating

Mrs. Spinelli commented that she has a lot of interaction with other districts across PA and that we have been the model for them. She commends the administrators and the staff for all the work put in this year.

Mr. Tkach stated that we are also doing the meal pick up on Mondays for all students who are in our remote or LAVA program.

- Totals for LAVA:
 - K-21
 - 1-25
 - 2-18
- Totals for Swivl:
 - K-12
 - 1-13
 - 2-17
- 3-5 side – Mrs. Volcskai is very pleased with teachers and staff
- Staff has been having regular meetings to work out any road blocks and successes that they are having
- Staff working together to be a support system for each other
- Staff has been working together with parents to ensure student progress

- Utilizing Canvas/blended approach to learning in the classroom
- Assigned technology to those who do not have but they can also bring their own device
- 3-5 side is in need of batteries for laptops; not close to being one to one
- Totals for LAVA:
 - 3-22
 - 4-15
 - 5-17
- Totals for Swivl:
 - 3-11
 - 4-21
 - 5-28

Mr. Bradley asked about batteries and the frustration of not having them and why is taking so long to get resolved.

Mr. Tkach answered that we just had the IT department go through and inventory, there are five different types of batteries needed and we are working on getting those ordered.

Mr. Bradley asked about how Mr. Sebelin mentioned that the students wearing masks are doing better than the adults- are we having a problem with staff wearing masks?

Mrs. Volcskai answered no- the staff has no problems and there are no issues with the staff wearing masks.

Mrs. Spinelli asked if we knew how many of our students went out of district for Charter School- Mr. Cleaver stated he would get a full report for the Finance meeting on October 13, 2020.

Mr. Tkach stated that administrators are encouraging students to come back to the building especially those in younger grades or those who may have more specialized needs.

Mr. Bradley asked if we were having any issues with students logging into the zoom/streaming and were there any truancy issues as a result of either log ins or staff potentially not signing in in a timely manner

Mrs. Howland answered that minor issues with zoom – most on the end of how students are actually log in – invites are imbedded in canvas – students need to use the gmail accounts. Students also need to make sure they are going through a server and not a phone. We are working with PDE on these issues

b.) Middle School

- Dr. McGalla wanted to thank the middle teachers and staff for going above and beyond
- Thank you to Kathy Goldberg, Steve Ebbert, Tami Cunfer, and Lory Frey for the continued efforts with scheduling students
- Thank you to June Potts for everything that she has done with our LAVA program
- Parents are patient and understanding
- Tami and Steve have been making sure that students have devices
- Total for LAVA:
 - 6-31

- 7-26
- 8-18
- Total for Zoom:
 - 6-12
 - 7-35
 - 8-18

c.) High School

- Mrs. Howland – the high school is either a Hybrid module or full virtual
- Working well
- The high school has had minor issues to work out- mostly how students are logging in.
- Students must use the gmail accounts, not private emails
- Assignments due by 2:15 each day, if not turned in the student is marked absent for the day
- Could be a ticket in or out, simple assignment
- If they did not login to zoom or complete an assignment they will be marked absent
- PDE guidelines for truancy
- Students – if it is their day to be there- they are marked present
- Students cannot pick and choose the day they want to be there
- District purchased 200 devices for the high school
- We continue to get devices in the hands of kids, we will need to plan to get more devices in the hands of students going forward
- 692 students in HS
- 490- student's hybrid
- 149-LAVA
- SATS – have been postponed at the state level
- Offering school based SATS for our students
- 18 students graduating early this year
- Work study

Mr. Tkach talked about a grant that we are getting where we are able to get more Chromebooks for our district.

Mr. Bradley asked Mrs. Howland how things were working out with our teachers not having a contract currently.

Mrs. Howland has no comment at this is academics and not personnel. Mrs. Howland's teachers are working hard every day

Mr. Cleaver stated that teachers are working under the old contract

II.) Act 80 Day, Monday 12, 2020

- a.) All three levels will be working on building collaborations among teachers dealing with Virtual learning
- b.) Blended learning through canvas, Zoom, SeeSaw, Swvil, etc.

- III.) District-Wide Parent Teacher Conferences- Wednesday, November 11, 2020
 - a.) Conferences will be set up virtual