

OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST HIGH SCHOOL
201 North Scoville Avenue
Oak Park, IL 60302

INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE MEETING
June 14, 2016

An Instruction Committee meeting was held on June 14, 2016. Dr. Gevinson called the meeting was called to order at 4:34 p.m. in the Board Room. Committee members present were Fred Arkin, and Dr. Steve Gevinson, and Dr. Jackie Moore. Also present were Dr. Steven T. Isoye, Superintendent; Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Amy Hill, Director of Research and Assessment; Michael Carioscio, Chief Information Officer; Tod Altenburg, Chief School Business Officer; Sheila Hardin, Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chair; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.

Visitors: Jennifer Cassell and Tom Cofsky, Board of Education members, Jason Dennis, Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Peter Hostrawser, OPRFHS Faculty; Students George Brennan, Paul Kovatchis, CJ Pospisil, CJ Bergeau, Dan Bevan, Kelvin Evans, Derrick Griffin, and De Vaughn Benion.

Public Comments

None

Community WIFI Student Presentation

The Instruction Committee members unanimously recommended that the Student Experiences in the Community Wi-Fi Project be moved forward to the Board of Education at its regular June 23 meeting, as an informational item. Over the past two years, the Educational Technology Team has worked closely with the OPRF School of Business to utilize student resources to work on a Community Wi-Fi project. Last year, the students created promotional materials including a video used to present the idea to various stakeholder groups. This year the students extended the work started last year and refined the concept of Community Wi-Fi. The students in the Business Club, both current and former students, presented to the Instruction Committee. The idea was to provide free public WI-FI in Oak Park businesses, as has been done in other cities. The process would include taking the businesses' current Wi-Fi and rerouting it to a landing page, oakpark.com. Businesses could run advertisements on it as well. The benefits would include more traffic in the area by residents and tourists. The students worked first with Mr. Carioscio and Mr. Hostrawser and then presented to Cathy Yen at the Oak Park Chamber of Commerce and Max Austin-Williams, Executive Director of Downtown Oak Park, on the plan to introduce the project to businesses, etc.

Businesses were surveyed as to their thoughts, and some ideas have been tested. The remarks were positive. Some businesses have committed to being hosts. Questions and comments businesses had were about the cost of manpower, security, could the system handle a large number of people using it, etc.

Through this process, students learned about the origin of the idea, how different businesses interact, the art of cold calling, etc. The next step will be to concentrate on creating "student/community-friendly" stickers, building the landing page, hosting the WI-FI, and partnering with the Village of Oak Park to make it sustainable.

Students suggested turning the Business Club into a class and use block scheduling to in order to allow more time to visit businesses and get more students into technology.

Mr. Arkin commented that community WI-FI was essential, especially now that all of the students will have devices. Community WI-FI has been discussed to by an intergovernmental board in River Forest on which he serves, and it is looking for a provider to provide discounted rates, etc. He asked if the students had spoken to Xfinity, etc. The response was that it would be an optimal situation for River Forest to have this. Once more businesses become a part of this effort, others may be enticed to do so. Red Mango, who has signed up to be a host, is talking with other businesses. The students are rethinking their conversations with other business and may re-approach them.

Institute Day Approvals for 2016-17

The Instruction Committee members unanimously recommended that the Institute Day dates and draft agendas be approved by the Board of Education at its regular June 23, 2016 meeting. Two all-school institute days will be held, one at the start of each semester. Draft agendas for the opening day of school (August 18, 2016) and the first day of the second semester (January 9, 2015) were included in the packet. Each agenda must also be submitted for approval to West40, the District's regional office of education.

Report on Professional Development Activities 2015-16/2016-17

The Instruction Committee members unanimously recommended that the report on professional development (PD) for 2015-16 and 2016-17 be sent to the full Board of Education as an informational item at its regular June 23, 2016 meeting. A summary of activities for each academic division for the 2015-16 school year was provided as well as participant feedback. The purpose and membership of each Collaborative Professional Development Committee/Team (CPDCT) was provided.

Also, a preview of professional development in 2016-17 was provided. The PD Oversight Committee (PDOC) established four goals for next year.

1. Keep racial and gender equity at the center of all PD; embed an explicit equity focus in all Learning Strand and TCT sessions.
2. Promote instructional growth through TCT focus on student work.
3. Assist teachers in fully integrating Chromebook use into the classroom flow at OPRF, based on the SAMR model of technology integration and the 4C's (critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity).
4. Develop a common understanding among teachers and administrators regarding the new student growth component of teacher evaluation.

Amy provided a retrospective review on the variety of PD activities, noting that PD had morphed as elements have been added to the program. It included a high-level summary and nice detail from the divisions about things that happened on divisional development time and with specific teachers.

The CPDCT includes ACT and the Building Professional Development Team (BPD) members, as well as others. It started meeting two years ago. Its purpose is to evaluate existing programs and the direction for the coming years and cycles, primarily focusing on faculty PD. All PD topics come to CPDCT. The BPD team includes strand leaders who focus on racial equity and how to move PD forward in a continuous improvement model. Significant amount of conversation occurs between the CPDCT and the BPD team, as there is much expertise in both groups. The Executive Functioning Team has been involved for numerous years. At one point, it was looking at a building-wide implementation vs. individual teams, but that was reconsidered due to the 1:1 pilot. The CPDCT's goals will be more streamlined next year, so that each committee can understand the goals and overall positiveness for next year.

Many models for evaluating PD exist. Just knowing what the experience was like for the practitioner is inadequate. Getting to understand the impact on student learning is challenging and something the District needs to improve upon. The PDOC is aware of the evaluation gap and is talking about having more sophisticated measurements in the future. Faculty members were surveyed about all of the activities

provided in the last couple of years and they self-reported areas in which they wanted more PD. The CPDCT is consistently challenged in connecting the dots from teacher PD to teacher practice to student learning. One member noted that it would be helpful to know what the goals and the indicators that would show progress were. The reading of divisional, departmental, and individual teacher activities did not provide a vision of what PD would benefit the entire division and transfer to students. The response was that Teacher Collaborate Teams (TCTs) are learning strands for all teachers. Some divisions highlighted more ground level activities, but a longer list of PD for all was included as a link in the document. The list includes things that are part of the official PD and others are individual PD.

New Business

The Instruction Committee received a report from Ms. Stovall on the WOVEN Program in April and had recommended that it be moved to the regular Board of Education agenda, but that did not happen. The Committee members asked about its status. Ms. Hill reported that she had spoken with Ms. Stovall two times this month about this program. The District at this time is determining the best way to vet a program so that it is part of an integrated program and not a one-off. Given the fact that the Strategic Plan process is stagnate at this time, this will be brought through the PD process instead. For the coming school year, Ms. Stovall will continue to work with a small number of teachers during her planning period, lunch, etc., but the program is being considered for the 2017-18 school year. The Committee's desire is to have a planning process that would allow a program such as WOVEN to fit into the PD program. The WOVEN program is evolving and Ms. Stovall was excited because she said she adding to her repertoire with new developments being presented at each of their conversations. WOVEN is more than racial equity; it is also social-emotional learning. Other documents were provided that showed cross-walks with student engagement work, and the District is looking to integrate this as a meaningful part of the PD program. Conversations will continue and the work will be refined with those who are interested. Ms. Hill expected to have a conversation with the CPDCT and with the Board of Education as to how this may fit together, possibly, for the 2017-18 school year.

Mr. Arkin asked for periodic updates.

Adjournment

At 5:17 p.m., on June 14, 2016, Dr. Gevinson moved to adjourn the Instruction Committee meeting; seconded by Dr. Moore. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

Submitted by
Gail Kalmerton
Clerk of the Board