

OAK PARK AND RIVER FOREST HIGH SCHOOL
201 N. Scoville
Oak Park, IL 60302

Strategic Plan Operations Committee (SPOC)
August 18, 2015

A Strategic Plan Operations Committee meeting was held on August 18, 2015. Chair Dr. Moore called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m. in the Board Room. Committee members present were Dr. Jackie Moore, Tom Cofsky, and Jennifer Cassell. Also present were Dr. Steven T. Isoye, Superintendent; Philip M. Prale, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction; Tod Altenburg, Chief School Business Officer; Dr. Gwen Walker Qualls, Interim Director of Pupil Support Services; Sheila Hardin, Faculty Senate Executive Committee Chair; and Gail Kalmerton, Executive Assistant/Clerk of the Board.

Visitors included Board of Education members Fred Arkin and Sara Spivy, OPRFHS faculty members Jason Dennis, Lindy Novotny, Avi Lessing, Andrea Neuman, and Therese Brennock; Ronald Johnson, Director of Purchasing and Transportation, Christopher Thieme, ET Department; and Steven Jackson, Oak Park Youth Township.

Public Comments

None

Minutes

Mr. Cofsky moved to approve the Strategic Plan Operations Committee minutes of April 14, 2015, as presented; seconded by Ms. Cassell. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

Discussion about the Current Status for the Start of the Year of the Implementation Teams

The Committee members received status reports about the work that had been performed during the summer from the four new initiatives set into place by the Board of Education and the administration from the co-chairs of each initiative. This work is aligned to the Board goal specific to the Strategic Plan and the incubation of pilot programs.

Facilities and Finance

Ms. Novotny and Mr. Johnson reported that furniture that would allow teachers flexibility in their instructional practices and allow up to 29 students the ability to work individually or collaboratively in groups had been purchased for small classrooms (580 square feet) had been ordered for 10 classrooms. The incremental cost was \$51,000. Due to the additional staff that was hired last year and the need to find office spaces for them, a delay was caused and the furniture will be delivered and put into classrooms during winter break. Teachers and students will be surveyed as to the useful/comfortableness of this furniture. The biggest commitment

from the PEG committee would be resources so that furniture for 50 classrooms can be ordered in order to address long-term needs at a cost of \$250,000.

Further discussion ensued regarding data collection. The committee will brainstorm on what data to collect relative to student engagement, i.e., student attention, teacher flow in the classroom room, collaborative projects, light weight furniture, cleaning, maintenance, sturdiness, etc. Initial feedback was that the students liked the light maple color because it made the room brighter and teachers liked the ability to move around the room. Data shows that students retain more information when they are not being lectured to by the teacher. Note: the architects are pushing this type of initiative and information will be received as to what is being installed in other schools. OPRFHS is seeking assistance from the design concepts.

This committee will work with the Long-Term Facility Plan on finding spaces for students outside of the classrooms. Student Council had identified miscellaneous space and an 11-member committee brainstormed on how that space could be used, using such criteria as the ability to be multipurpose, casual environment, etc. Ideas included 1) a closed door room with no furniture to allow for physical activities, 2) enable the room to be used by interdisciplinary classes, 3) furniture could include circular desks hooked up to a protection screen (4 to 6 pods connected with a whip). The question of adult supervisor is an issue as well. More student input is needed.

SEL Coach

The SEL Coach program had originally identified 25 students who are interested in participating, but because of time, the number of students was narrowed to 15. Part of the work is to identify 15 teachers and survey them as to their needs, i.e., direct contact in the classroom, regular attendance, coaching model with observations and feedback, curriculum planning, the modeling of social emotional learning, and schedule of Mr. Lessing. These teachers will meet together one day per semester.

Great enthusiasm exists among the professionals in the building to help each other, i.e., identifying students, breaking out of being individual silos, working collaboratively with each other, etc. The staff is exploring already existing models both locally and nationally. This is a community initiative. The SAY SEL group is looking at it from the cradle-to-birth-to-college perspective and what supports exist and what is needed. Mr. Dennis will meet with Karin Grimes in order to connect with the community.

With regard to data collection, there is a potential to work with a researcher from Loyola and UIC collect data. A suggestion was to use graduate students as a way for them to use this for their dissertations or theses. The collaboration with PSS Teams is about sharing resources. Some teachers already know what they want to do and others want more modeling. Mr. Lessing is using Google forms to coordinate this pilot with teachers with regard to schedules, etc. A

more defined list should be available in two weeks. To a concern raised about pulling teachers out of their regular teaching schedules as it is detrimental to their students, Mr. Lessing responded that he would work with HR to make sure whatever was scheduled would not occur on a heavy substitute day and appreciated that concern.

Freshman Launch

Approximately 35 students have been identified to enroll in the leadership course for the Freshman Launch Pilot. Ms. Novotny, Mr. Hoerster, and Mr. Dennis took 8 hours of training over the summer to lead this pilot. An example of a Launch weekly structure was provided. Mondays and Tuesdays are leadership class and on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, the mentors meet with the freshmen. The students were identified as having freshman study hall or Algebra Extended class and/or who had already applied for leadership groups, i.e., JK Braid, Global Leadership Summit, etc. Their demographics are 17 female, 23 males, and 51% are students of color. This is about the ability to partner with others, i.e., Mr. Lessing on SEL, Kristen McKee on Executive Functioning, a professor who studied RtI and Restorative Justice, etc. The District is interested in having freshmen progress as much as possible and building a sense of community. Introductory and invitation letters were sent out to students and families.

It was noted that while 600 freshmen were not in this mentoring program, they would still receive resources and be supportive.

CommUnity Work

The District is working with the Township on CommUnity. More conversation will occur with Districts 90 and 97 about expanding the programming.

Dr. Moore indicated that she hoped to talk informally as a debrief with the implementation team leaders and to the oversight committee in the coming weeks to get a sense of the process from the Board of Education's perspective of how to do this better and how it will impact guidelines and the framework for resources.

Supports and Metrics Background and Information

The project managers had discussed the anticipated supports for the future of their work. Metrics will be used to assess the level of success of the pilot program at the end of the year. This work is aligned to the Board goal specific the Strategic Plan and the incubation of pilot programs, and establishing benchmarks and measurements with feedback loops.

Adjournment

At 9:00 p.m., Dr. Moore moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Cassell. A voice vote resulted in motion carried.

Submitted by Gail Kalmerton
Clerk of the Board