

Harrisburg School District

Act 141 Advisory Committee Meeting

October 13, 2022

5:00 p.m.

Minutes

Attendees: Michele Rolko, Melanie Cook, Eric Turman, Doug Thompson Leader, James Thompson, Beth Light, Dr. Andria Saia, Eugene Spells, Dr. Travis Waters, Dr. Lori Suski

Dr. Suski announced that Latoya Elby-Newman would be joining the committee as a representative of AFSCME. Ms. Newman was not present at the meeting.

Dr. Suski distributed and reviewed minutes from the September 8<sup>th</sup> Act 141 Advisory Committee meeting and highlighted the possible outcomes, strategies, and obstacles for Pillar #1 – Academic Achievement – that had been suggested by the committee.

Dr. Suski shared that 2022 PSSA and Keystone Exam data had been released. She shared the composite percentages of proficient/advanced for MMSA since that was a building that was recommended in the previous meeting as a model. A discussion ensued regarding potential reasons for the poor performance in Mathematics District-wide:

- Focus on ELA for professional development and not enough on Math
- Parents' lack of familiarity with Common Core Math
- Teachers not assigning consistent homework for Math
- Teachers not understanding concepts they are teaching in Math
- Curriculum alignment to the state tests?
- Not using available resources

The committee also discussed teachers' ability to engage parents as being problematic; students suffering from test fatigue; teachers doing their own lessons and not following approved curriculum; buy-in from teachers; focus on PVAAS (growth) data vs. achievement.

Dr. Saia recommended that the committee determine an "access point" otherwise the conversation becomes too overwhelming.

Dr. Suski informed the committee that Mass Insight would be returning to HBGSD to conduct a follow-up diagnostic to the original diagnostic performed in early 2019.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 10 – 5:00-6:00 p.m. in the Lincoln Administration Building Board Room