

Harrisburg School District

Act 141 Advisory Committee Meeting

May 9, 2024

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Minutes

In Attendance:

Committee Members: Melanie Cook, Dr. Marisol Craig, Laura Harding, Beth Light, Susan Roth, Eugene Spells, Dr. Marcia Stokes, Dr. Lori Suski, Jim Thompson, Doug Thompson Leader, Eric Turman, Dr. Travis Waters, Dr. Tamara Willis

Staff: Adam Nornhold, Dr. Portia Slaughter

- Dr. Waters welcomed everyone to the meeting and shared the agenda for the meeting, which was a review of the Academic Services initiatives.
- Dr. Portia Slaughter, Assistant to the Superintendent, was in attendance to provide a presentation on continuous improvement. Dr. Slaughter explained G.L.E.A.M. (Grade Level, Engaging, Affirming, Meaningful) instruction at Tier 1. She also discussed the Personalized Learning training provided by Education Elements and the significance of the 7 C's survey for students. Dr. Slaughter mentioned the upcoming Tripod Teacher Survey that would be used to gather additional data from teachers.
- Dr. Slaughter reviewed the 8 elements of instructional leadership and explained the work done by the Achievement Network. She described the Pathways to Literacy Leadership year-long course that principals are taking through the AIMS Institute.
- Dr. Willis asked if differentiated supervision is used in Harrisburg SD. Dr. Slaughter confirmed that it is, but few teachers qualify due to emergency permits or being novice teachers.
- Dr. Slaughter shared the "Equitable Instruction Observation Tool" handout and explained the common language that aligns with the recovery plan. She shared that UnBoundEd serves many districts with scholars of color.
- Susan Roth asked if Second Step™ is still being utilized for direct instruction. Dr. Slaughter confirmed that it is, but that staff has differing opinions of how it all aligns with Responsive Classroom®. Dr. Slaughter mentioned the focus groups that were held to

define the key initiatives to ensure that too many things are not being implemented simultaneously.

- Dr. Slaughter explained the indicators in the 7 C's survey, range of scores, and trends among grade bands. She indicated that classroom management is a low area that falls under academic press and impacts achievement. Dr. Slaughter responded to various questions from committee members regarding the timing of the survey, how data would be reviewed, and how the survey integrates with G.L.E.A.M.
- Dr. Willis asked if there is professional development guidance that will flow out of the results. She also asked what professional development to improve looks like. Dr. Slaughter said that the focus is on building mindsets by looking at what the data tells us.
- Dr. Willis asked if the G.L.E.A.M. instrument would be used with principals and teachers. Dr. Slaughter indicated that there is an instrument for learning walks that was built by Ed Elements. Dr. Slaughter shared that there will be intensive training for staff on August 27 and 28, 2024. Beth Light asked if staff has embraced these concepts and what will happen if they do not. Dr. Slaughter said that the challenge will be to show how it's all connected. The District needs to be very intentional.
- Laura Harding asked what the response has been to student support Saturdays this year. Mr. Spells said that some students have taken advantage of the opportunity.
- Dr. Suski reminded everyone of the last committee meeting for the 2023-24 school year scheduled for Thursday, June 13, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.
- The meeting adjourned at 6:06 p.m.