

Broad Based Planning Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

The third meeting of the year for the Broad Based Planning Committee was held in the White Oak Professional Development Small Conference Room. Members in Attendance: Amy Maharas, Amy Beliles, Mary Burkhart, Savannah Hwang, Amy Beliles, Jenny Shayotovich and Barb Marcotte.

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Jenny Shayotovich. Jenny shared the corporation had hired Dr. Sarah Pies to replace Jenny's previous position as the Data Analyst and Acceleration Coordinator. Dr. Pies comes to us from the Indiana Department of Education and will take over this committee for the 2024-25 school year.

The first item on the agenda tonight is high ability appeals. We have received 63 appeals so far this year. Of those, four are denials (no qualifications for success in the program), twelve students are already tagged high ability in that concentration or will be offered an invitation to the high ability program based on recent scores. For the remaining 47 appeals, Jenny shared how we created a "cheat sheet" with student test scores so we were consistent on who would receive SIGS evaluations sent to their teacher and parent/guardian, and a consistent cut-off score for those who would not be reviewed further. These notes will be added onto the spring profile sheets, along with the Spring NWEA scores, for school administrators to review for high ability potential and an official invitation in early June.

It was mentioned that there were less questions about middle school appeals this year from current high ability sixth grade teachers. Jenny explained that because of numbers, the middle schools adjusted the course selection process for next year's middle school students allowing for classes with a cluster model of high ability. This process did allow some choice in taking courses for students and reduced the number of middle school appeals for the 2024-25 school year because they worked proactively with families on the front end.

Jenny passed out the high ability identification timeline for all to review. We need to review the timeline for possible changes to our identification guidelines for the 2025-26 school year. This will be the year that our elementary schools become kindergarten through fifth grade and our middle schools will contain grades sixth through eighth. How will this affect our identification process? Should we switch from testing all students in fourth grade to fifth grade? Remember we test all second graders for initial program invitations and all new-to-Avon students up to eighth grade. Orleans Hanna will still be given to qualifying sixth graders for placement in seventh grade Pre-Algebra and Algebra. Discussions on the benefits/disadvantages of cluster vs. self-contained classrooms took place.

Jenny thanked everyone for their time and input tonight. This meeting was super productive and we will reconvene until the 2024-25 school year. The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.