

Instructional Leadership Council

Meeting Minutes for March 14, 2024

Attendees: Julie Barker, Gina Brown, Angela Carpin, Dwayne Cerbone, Heather Clayton, Maribeth Curran, Kathy Curtis, Shana Cutaia, Meredith Graham, Liz Grizzanti, John Halldow, Sarah Jacob, Amanda Kirkebye, Matt Kwiatkowski, Sheila Lecca, Kate Milne, Jodi Orman, Mark Puma, Teresa Roets, Tish Romas, Kristin Rose, Brian Shafer, Toni Stevens-Oliver, Melanie Ward, Elizabeth Woods

Chairperson: Melanie Ward

Co-Chair: Julie Barker

Note Taker: Liz Norten

Approved Minutes are on the Pittsford School District ILC webpage and members can access in Microsoft Teams.

Minutes from February 8, 2024 meeting: Approved

Agenda: Approved

World Language Program: Shari Ebert was invited to share some important information regarding the future planning of the World Language Program.

Background: World language instruction includes Spanish, French and Latin beginning in 6th grade and can continue through Grade 12. Historically, enrollment has been highest in Spanish, French and Latin in that order. Enrollment has been decreasing over the years in Latin.

On average, 49% of 11th graders and 38% of 12th graders are enrolled in World Language classes.

The Latin department currently consists of three teachers (2.8 FTEs this year) and the concern is sustaining the program given future staffing constraints. There are very few Latin certification programs in NYS and those that do exist turn out very few graduates. Abruptly discontinuing a language offering could be very disadvantageous to students.

Next steps: the committee unanimously supported the development of a World Language Ad-Hoc Committee to study the following:

- Is there a way to sustain Latin?
- If not, two languages or three?
 - Statewide and local trends in world language offerings
- If three, what is the third?
 - Student interest
 - Availability of certified teachers
 - Community input

- Implementation Plan/Timeline including a phase out/phase in process.

Melanie will work with Shari, Dwayne and the Superintendent to discuss and solicit membership.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Committee Update:

Shana provided members with an update on the district's new SEL committee. Beginning this year, there was a shift from a Health & Wellness committee to the Social Emotional Learning Committee. The committee meets monthly and membership includes teachers, support staff, parents, and students.

Shana shared the SEL committee's vision statement and talked about why this work is important to students, staff, and families.

Members had an opportunity to provide feedback on the vision statement which will be brought back to the SEL committee for their consideration.

Curriculum Feedback Loop:

This agenda item will be moved to the April meeting.

Rigor - Definition and Application:

Melanie distributed a draft Frayer Model on Rigor. The graphic organizer uses a four-square model representing the definition, characteristics, examples and non-examples of the word Rigor.

Members took part in a "chalk-talk" activity to apply this definition to a few selected district initiatives to check for alignment and shared

understanding. Background resources on each of these initiatives were available for members to refer to:

- Assessment Philosophy
- Grading Philosophy
- Math ad hoc recommendations
- Science program revisions
- Elementary SS Inquiries

Melanie took feedback from the group and will bring a revised draft back to ILC on April 18th.

Constituent Sharing:

Student Services: successful and inspirational Power Hour celebrating inclusion in our schools.

Special Education: Power Hour recording available online; students insightful and highlighted the importance of diversity of learners; unified basketball game 6:00 CRMS.

MHS: Heritage Day March 28 with booths/tables in the Commons; teachers can incorporate in their classroom lessons; BOE members came to DECA competition – 7 qualifiers.

ACE: Initiated a collegial circle to study the book *Teach with Authenticity*.

PRE: Odyssey of the Mind teams going to States.

CRMS: unified basketball game 6:00 pm.

MCE: teachers involved in reading *The Thinking Classroom*; experimenting with vertical thinking practices.

SHS: TedX event created by students (Brian Shafer adviser); 6 student speakers on theme of “In a New

Light” highlighting how we can see things from a different perspective; will be on TedX website.

MCE: Odyssey of the Mind teams going to States; successful winter clothing drive.

Elem. Stds: elementary standards leaders met with Melanie to finalize teacher WIN day planning for spring grade level release days.

Sec. Stds: secondary standards leaders working on Supt Conf Day planning; planning for end of year AP and Regents Exam grading; several colleagues planning to participate in “Thinking Classrooms” workshop by Dr. Peter Liljedahl this summer.

PTSA: Nominating committee has been formed; ad hoc committee in place to study process for building appointments; Super Sale at Nazareth next year October 15-21.

BRMS: 7th grade upcoming visit to Junior Achievement *BizTown* discovery center; teachers have been participating in the JA curriculum professional development; 8th grade – virtual tour of Auschwitz; alternate setting for staff to be involved.

Share with constituent groups:

- SEL committee work
- Continued work on draft rigor statement

Other topics for future agenda:

- Curriculum feedback loop

Next Meeting: April 18, 2024