

Broad Based Planning Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

The third meeting of the year for the Broad-Based Planning Committee was held in the Large Conference Room at White Oak Early Learning Center. Members in Attendance: Savannah Hwang, Kristen Hwang, Andrea Brown, ChiaYee Ang, Ethan Hemphill, Parker Hemphill, Susi Clark, Amy Maharas, Lori Taylor, Melissa Beeker, Amanda Ramirez, Emily Garrett, Candace Gadowski-Emmert, Matt Hines, Jenny Shayotovich, Dr. Sarah Pies and Barb Marcotte.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Dr. Sarah Pies. Sarah thanked everyone for coming to our last meeting of the year. Tonight we will have guest speakers as we celebrate student success with one of our own members speaking on her journey as a high ability student attending Avon Schools. Next, the Director of Secondary Education will share information on middle school course options beginning with the upcoming school year. Lastly, high school administrators will share important updates for upcoming high school families to know regarding the new diplomas available for the incoming freshman class.

We will start the evening with our first guest speaker. Savannah Hwang, is a current senior at Avon High School, and has been a member of the Broad Based Planning Committee for the past nine years. Savannah spoke on her personal experience while in Avon Schools and how it has prepared her for her future. We wish Savannah the best! Sarah thanked Savannah for speaking to the group tonight on her experiences as a high ability student in Avon Schools.

As for High Ability Programming updates for the elementary level, Sarah is in the process of organizing an Elementary High Ability Council this upcoming school year. The council would consist of members made up of one to two high ability teachers per elementary school. The group would meet four to six times a year to work on updating English/Language Arts and Math high ability curriculum for our elementary grades. This group's formation and work will depend on funding cuts for the upcoming school year.

Reminder that kindergarten through second grade students will continue to take NWEA during the school year as in the past. We will not use NWEA for grades three through eight. In its place, we will use the three checkpoints from ILEARN for assisting with high ability placement. National norms will be given to districts over the summer, to assist with these checkpoints taking the place of NWEA for high ability requirement guidelines. Also, with our elementary schools moving to K-5 versus K-4; we will want to move our review of student scores from fourth grade to fifth grade moving forward.

Matt Hines, Director of Secondary Education, passed out the 2025-26 Middle School Programming guide. With redistricting our middle schools for students in sixth through eighth grade, along with the new state diplomas (beginning with our incoming freshman class), this handout is very helpful for students, parents and the community to understand how the courses taken in middle school can add to their success in high school. It will be possible for a student leaving middle school to have up to ten credits towards graduation, before entering the high school.

Next, Assistant Principal Emily Garrett and the Director of Guidance, Candace Gadomski-Emmert, spoke on the new diploma options for our current eighth grade students as they enter high school in the 2025-26 school year. A packet of information regarding the new diploma options was given to members. The new diploma gives students more flexibility and choices for students to make based on their plans after high school. There are three seals to be earned, and it is possible for students to earn more than one seal, giving them more than one option once they graduate.

The first option is the Enlistment & Service Honors Plus diploma. This is designed for students who plan to serve their community, state or nation when enlisting in a branch of the armed forces. The second option is the Employment Honors Plus diploma. This diploma is designed for students who plan to go straight into a career. These students would receive dedicated career support helping students get connections through interviews and the potential for working for some of the state's top employers. The third option, Enrollment Honors Plus, is aimed at students who want to continue their education after high school. All seven state public colleges and universities are guaranteeing automatic acceptance for any student who applies and earns this seal. These diploma options were just approved by the state of Indiana in December, so we are sharing information with parents and the community as we receive updates.

There was great discussion regarding the changes to middle school programming and graduation requirements with the new diploma options. The new diploma requires 42 credit hours to graduate, up from 40 with the current diploma. Please remember, students need 47 credits to graduate from Avon High School.

Sarah gave the group time to speak at their tables about their thoughts on the data presented tonight. There are post-it notes on each table, please feel free to write down your: Concerns, Suggestions, and Strengths. These three areas are assigned to three white boards in the room. Please place your post-its on the appropriate white board before leaving.

Sarah shared that Barb will send out next year's dates to the group as soon as they are finalized for the upcoming school year. She hopes to see everyone back next year! Don't forget to post your post-its before leaving and have a great end to the school year. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.