Broad Based Planning Committee Minutes
Wednesday, November 4, 2026
White Oak Professional Development Center

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Dr. Sarah Pies. The following members were present: Kelsey Davidson, Emily Davidson, Andrea Brown, Jennifer Miner, Lori Taylor, Mary Burkhart, Kristen Hwang, Jenny Shayotovich, Dr. Sarah Pies and Barb Marcotte.

Introductions were made with this being the first meeting of the school year. We are always looking for new members, so please let Dr. Pies or Barb Marcotte know of anyone you know who might be interested in joining this committee.

Looking at the Agenda, the first item is to review high ability student achievement data. At our last meeting, on April 14, 2026, we had a guest speaker, Hannah Mayo, DOE Specialist, who advised us to complete an annual evaluation on our high ability program as to what is working, what is not for our students. Avon currently has 13.5% of students identified as high ability students. The Indiana Department of Education would like to see ten to fifteen percent of students in a district to be tagged as high ability students. We are right where we should be in student identification.

Some celebrations to share: ILEARN scores came out late this year. Avon is trending up and is currently 19th in ILEARN scores in the state, which is in the top 6.5% of Indiana school districts.

We also had three elementary schools: Cedar, Hickory and River Birch Elementary Schools, surpass the Indiana IREAD goal of 95%.

Lastly, we had the highest number of National Merit Finalists this year – ten! All ten students have spent their entire K-12 career in Avon Schools. Nine of these students are part of the high ability program.

Dr. Pies showed the group slides of data pertaining to our high ability students and their success on standardized tests. In second grade, all students take IREAD. This test is a requirement for all third grade students to pass before they can move on to fourth grade. When pulling the results for our second grade high ability students, 1.39% were On Track, while the remaining 98.61% passed the test as second grade students.

When reviewing the ILEARN English/Language Arts results for our high ability students in grades 3 through 8, we show that 58.82% received an Above Proficiency score and the remaining 41.18% received an At Proficiency score. Avon tends to have lower English/Language Arts scores, so this is still positive while we are working on ways to increase these scores.

ILEARN Math results for our high ability students in grades three through eight show higher results. Above Proficiency ratings for 69.23% of this group, while 29.67% achieved At Proficiency. In eighth grade, we did show 1.1% of our math high ability students Approaching Proficiency.

Dr. Pies noted that, under current state requirements, middle school students who earn an Above Proficiency rating on the Grade 5 ILEARN Mathematics assessment and maintain at least a C average in math must be placed in a higher level math course. This caused us to add another sixth grade math class last year, Honors Math, for students. Students may be placed in this class without a high ability tag as the criteria to be in the class is different than being tagged high ability.

The question was asked if all elementary schools cluster their high ability students instead of self-contained classrooms. Currently, we cluster all high ability students. There were many discussions and reasoning to go with this model, but with PLC planning, it is beneficial for all teachers to be on the cluster model. A poll of neighboring districts was taken and are also placing their elementary high ability students in clusters rather than self-contained classrooms.

SAT results at the high school level show the opposite. Whereas all juniors take the SAT at Avon High School, the trend is that our English/Language Arts scores are higher than Math.

Dr. Pies next shared updates for the group. This is the second year for the Elementary High Ability Councils. The high ability group of teachers meet simultaneously when their general education peers are across the hall working. The High Ability English/Language Arts Council meets to work on English/Language Arts curriculum maps or when the Math Council teachers are meeting, the Math High Ability Council works on prepping math students for an easy transition to middle school.

The High Ability Learning Series is a resource offered for both schools and for parents from the IDOE. The Indiana Learning Lab is full of resources with collections and weekly live workshops personalized for families, teachers and administrators that is free.

We are currently getting ready to begin CogAT testing next week for our kindergarten, second grade and fifth grade students. We will also test any new-to-Avon students who are in first, third and fourth grades. The kindergarten through fourth grade students will only take the screener. If scores are high, then the full battery can be given for future identification. Our fifth grade students will take the full battery. NWEA scores will also assist in high ability selection for our kindergarten through second grade students and ILEARN checkpoints will assist with high ability placement for upper grade students. Our fifth grade students will begin their sixth grade scheduling in February and the lower grades will have their scores reviewed in May for high ability recommendations for the upcoming school year.

IXL Training for first grade through eighth grade students will begin in November. Tips and Tricks for our high ability students are included as well.

Middle School English/Language Arts Honors teachers were surveyed by Dr. Pies to see what is needed. Ninety-five percent of teachers completed the survey.

Middle School Math: Reminder that we now have three tiers of math classes starting in sixth grade.

This year we are going to begin with the ML Alternate for CogAT for our multi-lingual students in grades kindergarten through second grade. This will help with verbal reasoning to determine comprehension levels of these students versus their English skills.

The next item on the Agenda was Broad Based Planning Committee's Program Evaluation. Dr. Pies asked the members to break into small groups and work within your group to evaluate the high ability programs at each level (elementary, middle and high school). Have one person write down the groups findings for the strengths, challenges/barriers and weaknesses. Ten minutes were given for each group to work on this task. The findings will be gathered and Dr. Pies will sort and use these findings as a starting point for the January meeting, to lead us where to go as a committee.

A reminder that our next meeting is a virtual meeting to be held via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, January 26, 2027 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Please send any questions to Dr. Pies. Remember to invite friends to become members of this group. The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.