

School District of Beloit
CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, June 20, 2017
Kolak Education Center—Room 210

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting was called to order by Kris Klobucar at 4:16 p.m.

Committee members present: Lisa Anderson-Levy, Pam Charles(4:20), and Kris Klobucar

Also present: Laurie Endres, Tom Johnson, and Betsy Schroeder

2. Approval of Agenda

Anderson-Levy moved approval of the agenda. Klobucar seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

3. Approval of May 2017 Meeting Minutes

Anderson-Levy moved approval of the May 9, 2017 minutes. Klobucar seconded the motion. Motion carried 2-0.

4. Students on the Move Ad Hoc Committee Update

Johnson reviewed the recommendations from the Students on the Move Committee which included continuing the extended recess, changing the cold temperature to 0 degrees instead of 10 degrees and that the administration is working on playground equipment for the intermediate schools. One correction was noted and that was that the board report stated that the board approved financial support of purchasing playground equipment which is not the case, however, playground equipment is being researched and bids will be sought.

5. Data Reports

There were no reports this month.

6. Achievement Gap Efforts

Betsy Schroeder along with Nicole Davidson, Stephanie Hanson, Terri Gartland, Rachelle Elliott, and Kathy Schulta presented information on the Merrill Elementary School Reform Model.

Schroeder began by sharing the enrollment breakdown and the timeline of Merrill's reform efforts to date.

Schulta shared information about the APTT (Academic Parent-Teacher Team's). She explained that instead of doing to the parent, they are doing with the families, two way communication, classroom based, systematic and integrated efforts, etc. APT is bridging the 12% school time with the 55% away from school time. She reviewed the APTT Model with team meetings and individual sessions throughout the year, sample agenda, and family folders.

Elliott shared information on the two main areas, Reading and Math. She explained that they assessed student skills four times in the year. She also reviewed the graphs and explained the benchmarks and results. Elliott shared that those families who came, participated in the meetings and were in the school; those students showed the most gains.

Schroeder reviewed the successes they had over the year including student achievement, family attendance at the meetings, care-a-vans and positive feedback from surveys. She reviewed special considerations such as training for leadership team and school staff, significant planning and prep, technology skills, translators, childcare, potential cost of supplies and food.

Schroeder explained next steps including applying for a continuation of the grant funds, implementing at 5K and grade 3, training with WestEd in August, additional training for leadership, continued collaboration and successes celebration.

Davidson discussed School Uniforms. Every Monday, first thing in the morning, students were given their polo shirts in Blue, Yellow or White. They worked on seven healthy habits. Benefits of uniforms are improved attendance, reduced competition and teasing, increased school pride and spirit, more focused on lessons and learning, reduced cost for families, i.e., polo shirts were \$4.97 at WalMart.

She explained that they did talk to the families about the cost and concept. Merrill has talked about having a washer and dryer to help families with laundry for uniforms, shirt swaps twice a year for students who have outgrown their shirts and parents who need new sizes. Feedback from the Home and School Committee was positive, saving money for families, laundry and swapping. By uniforms, they are actually just talking shirts to make the roll out easy. They shared a video of students sharing their feelings about the polo shirts.

Gartland shared continued reform efforts including summer school this year including reading, math, enrichment, implementing 5K and 3rd grade in the fall, continue home visits, participate in site visits to see successful schools in action. Beyond next year they would like to add it to 4K, continue refining the program and define a college and career focus.

Johnson indicated that the team at Merrill have put in a lot of work on this and are doing a great job. Anderson-Levy asked if there is opportunity for families to request meetings outside of the four assessment times. Schulta and Elliott indicated yes, absolutely. Anderson-Levy really appreciates the family engagement piece and the uniforms. She feels uniforms can actually be liberating and many misunderstand and feel its constricting. She also appreciates the sustainability and time that has been put into the program. Charles asked why parents were not coming to the four meetings. Some were conflicts, some were personal schedules, etc. She also asked about uniforms and providing them to students. Schroeder indicated that the school will have some available and will work with families in need. When talking to families already, most felt they were affordable and would not be prohibitive. Charles asked if this is going to be put into place across the board at all the elementary schools. Johnson stated if that were the case, it would need to be a board discussion/decision. At this point, he is anxious to see how things go at Merrill and then go from there. Endres gave her praise. She felt it was important to talk about the simplicity of the uniforms to help people understand. She also volunteered for childcare.

7. Academic Achievement Ad Hoc Committee Update

Klobucar and Johnson gave a brief update on the committee work. Johnson indicated that he met with one of the sub-committees at the last meeting and had a good conversation. Klobucar indicated that the meetings are going well.

This item was for information only. No action was taken.

8. Future Agenda Items

AGR Update (Achievement Gap Reduction) will be coming in July.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m.