



SCHOOL DISTRICT U-46
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CENTER

INSTRUCTIONAL COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 17, 2009

8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

ROOM 240

MINUTES

Meeting Attendance

Members: Celia Banks, Barbara Bettis, Jan Booth, Susan Collins, Suzanne Colombe, Mike Demovsky, Chris Dennison, Heather Fodor, Maryellyn Friel, Heather Hunt, Doug Johnson, Julie Kallenbach, Kathy Megan, Jennifer McDonnell, Wendy Molof, Michelle Rogers Besch, Ryan Sims, Lavonne Smiley, Nan Strohmaier, Rosa Syphers, Pamela Tonyan, Kathleen Turnquist, Renee Zabel, Lynn Glaser

Observers: Lisa Whitmer, Joyce Houston, Kayla Swanson

Guests: José M. Torres, Superintendent and Tim Davis, ETA President

Presenters: Pamela Harris, Linda Koch, Lashawn Lomax, Kimberly Hawley, Melissa Pedrigi, Lynne Kuhn, Kathleen May-Ernst, Carol DePue, Joe Sieczkowski, Gary Coti, Russ Bartz, and Stephen Buchs

Welcome by Lynn Glaser, Instructional Council Chairperson. Council members were asked to state their name and what school they were from.

Approval of the 2009-2010 Instructional Council meeting dates - Motion to accept was made by Kathy Turnquist, seconded by Heather Fodor. The Chair indicated that the official start time of Council would be 8:30 a.m. A question was raised regarding the December date as to whether it should be kept or changed. It was felt that because the date was early in the month it should be kept and if there were no items to discuss the meeting could be cancelled.

The March 18, 2010 date was sited as a possible conflict with an IEA convention, it's also the end of the 3rd quarter, however, because of Spring Break, the date should not be changed.

Motion to approve calendar, 1 opposed, motion carried.

The Chair explained the large sheets of poster paper around the room, they would be used as parking lots for questions that she would get answers for the next meeting.

It was decided that presentations with teachers would be scheduled for the mornings.

Dr. Torres and Tim Davis were invited to address Council. Tim Davis spoke first, thanking council members for being a part of this very important committee. They are playing a vital role and should feel supported for their participation. The committee is the only forum of this kind to be able to have an articulated forum for Pre-school to high school.

Dr. Torres stated that work here on council is a life and death situation. Curriculum development is in an era of quantum leaps. There is more to life than a test but many are important to our lives. He feels that the committee should be considered valuable. He would like to see more context to the minutes. He feels that he has appointed the best Chair possible. We have stacked the deck for success. Dr.

Torres feels that it is critical for administrators to come to all the meetings. Dr. Torres cautioned council to participate not where you sit but K – 12. He wants to make sure that this team works well.

I. Initial Presentations

A. Unique Learning System - Pamela Harris, Linda Koch, Lashawn Lomax, Kimberly Hawley, Melissa Pedrigi, Lynne Kuhn, and Kathleen May-Ernst presenting. A committee of teachers and administrators recommends the adoption of the Unique Learning System as the core curriculum for use with the EN I, EN II, ILP and MLP programs for a three year cycle. These programs have not had any kind of curriculum, just teacher created materials that attempt to follow the learning standards. This program would be a much needed standardized curriculum.

Unique Learning Systems has developed a three-year curriculum that presents 8 units each year. Each unit is themed around a different science or social studies topic and included 25 lessons. Each lesson is based on the theme and provides instruction in the core content areas of reading, writing and/or math. The format of many of the reading, writing and math tasks are consistent throughout each unit which will provide repetitive practice of the tasks for the students and allow teachers to track their academic growth. The teachers would have access to a Web browser and lessons can be translated into Spanish.

Since the district uses Reading A-Z, many of the books in the lessons from Unique are already in the buildings.

Ancillary materials would be needed for the 49 teachers in addition to the purchase of the subscription for the program.

A council member ask if what would happen if we only purchased the three years and did not continue with the subscription into the fourth year, it was thought that we would lose the on-line access to charting and gauging student performance.

It will be asked that the total cost for the adoption be put into the proposal, as presented, the costs associated with the program were in two different places, making it difficult to fully assess the costs involved.

This item will be moved to the October agenda, with updated costs presented at that time.

B. Civil Engineering and Architecture - Carol DePue, Joe Sieczkowski, Gary Cotie, Russ Bartz and Steven Buchs presenting. This is a Project Lead The Way (PLTW) created curricula. This course is designed for students interested in engineering and architecture related occupations. The course addresses getting and keeping a job, work relationships, career opportunities, goal setting and realization, leadership and resource management. Students are introduced to the interdependent field of civil engineering and architecture while learning project planning, site planning and building design.

Eighty-five high schools in Illinois are using PLTW and have found a higher retention rate in college. We need to broaden our Tech Ed Program.

Questions regarding diversity of language, diverse learners, would they be eligible to take these courses? It is believed that the materials supplied would support diverse learners in addition to pairing up with other students and teacher mentoring.

This is an elective class and at this time does not cover the Math/Science requirement for graduation.

C. **Computer Integrated Manufacturing (CIM)** - Carol DePue, Joe Sieczkowski, Gary Cotie, Russ Bartz and Steven Buchs presenting. This is a Project Lead The Way (PLTW) created curricula. CIM in engineering is a method of manufacturing in which the entire production process is controlled by computer. Students will learn concepts of robotics and automated manufacturing by creating three-dimensional designs with modeling software, and producing models of their design.

There were questions regarding both of these proposals in regard to cost. It was thought that one proposal was being offered at only three high schools, with costs showing for five high schools. Clarification of equipment and material costs is being requested and if both proposals are for all five high schools at this time. Would students be required to pay a fee when taking these courses?

It was suggested that these types of courses be marketed at the middle schools so students would know what might be available to them in high school. There is a middle school version of PLTW and there are plans to pilot at two of the middle schools. A council member questioned when they would be coming to Instructional Council with the proposal to pilot at middle school.

II. Action Items

None

III. Information Items

- A. Review of U-46 Annual Planning Cycle and DIP - Karen Fox presenting. The annual cycle was developed as a work plan and vehicle to make sure that we were not missing important deadlines. Reviewed the monthly plans and showed the graphic annual cycle, which was distributed later in the meeting. The District Improvement Plan is divided into “pillars” of work.
- B. Tentative RtI District Implementation Plan - Carla Cumblad presenting. Response to Intervention (RtI) is a systematic process to improve academic outcomes for all students. When implemented fully, RtI has been shown to be effective with all types of learners and has improved overall outcomes. By the fall of 2010, Illinois will require that RtI be the key element when considering eligibility for special education under the learning disabilities category. It is a mandate. We are assembling Building Teams, principal and up to 5 teachers, to attend meetings with Ms. Cumblad and coaches. There is stipend money to support the building teams.
Council members felt that there were a lot of different levels of knowledge regarding RtI and the building teams should be the ones to share. Another member felt that a key partner was to have parents on board – maybe as a team member. Unfortunately, Ms. Cumblad stated that we could not use parents on the teams because students’ names are sometimes used confidentially. Council would like to have regular updates on the progress of this initiative.
- C. Update on Implementation of SES (Supplemental Educational Services) - Jim O’Connor presenting. This is a Title I funded program. Schools that have not made AYP two years in a row are eligible for this program. There are currently ten schools who will receive SES money from Title I to offer tutoring to students that are on free or reduced lunch and 19 vendors providing these services. Letters were sent out to all eligible students with vendors that will be serving their schools. Applications for services are due back to Mr. O’Connor by September 25, 2009.

One council member asked if there was open space at one of the schools could the services be offered to other students. Mr. O'Connor replied that the services were for only at risk students and they could enroll at their own expense.

IV. Dialogue Topic
None

V. Other

- A. Steering Committee Election - Lynn Glaser – Elections needed to be held at this first meeting because it was not done at the last official meeting last school year. Council members' names were put on ballot in accordance with Instructional Council Manual specifications. Members were given a chance to remove their name if they did not wish to run for a seat on Steering Committee. Upon doing so, there was no one to run at the high school level. Ryan Sims motioned to approve Michelle Besch and Heather Fodor be allowed to represent high schools on a shared basis. Motion carried. The first ballot votes were counted and resulted in Heather Hunt, Barbara Bettis, Michelle Besch/Heather Fodor, and Denise Lockwald/Suzanne Colombe being elected. The principal spot on council will also be allowed to have co-representation. The second election for three at large members resulted in Rosa Syphers, Kathleen Turnquist and Wendy Molof being elected. Lynn Glaser will be the Chair for Steering Committee.
- B. Review of July Minutes - Council Members – A council member stated that the July minutes do not reflect the outcome of the vote on the M.S. Writing proposal. The perception is that the proposal was approved and that was not the case. The chair stated that the bulleted minutes were reviewed as a council and written as proposed by the members of council.
- C. Wrap Up - Council Members - Another council member want to know the status of the Report Card Committee that was approved at the July meeting, and the Chair will be checking with Carmen Rodriguez to ask for an update at our next meeting.

Bulleted minutes and council rep names will be sent to Principals and put on the web site.

Susan Collins motioned to adjourn, seconded by Jan Booth, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM.