



SCHOOL DISTRICT U-46
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CENTER

INSTRUCTIONAL COUNCIL

JANUARY 21, 2010

8:30 AM – 2:00 PM

ROOM 240

CORRECTED MINUTES

Meeting Attendance

Members: Celia Banks, Barbara Bettis, Jan Booth, Lori Brandes, Susan Collins, Mike Demovsky, Chris Dennison, Heather Fodor, Heather Hunt, Doug Johnson, Julie Kallenbach, Denise Lockwald, Kathy Magan, Jennifer McDonnell, Wendy Molof, Michelle Rogers Besch, Nan Strohmaier, Rosa Syphers, Katie Thomson, Pamela Tonyan, Kathleen Turnquist, Renee Zabel, Lynn Glaser

Observers: Tim Davis. Lisa Whitmer

Guests:

Presenters: Nan Ochs, Susan Ali, Carla Cumblad, Lynne Huske

Meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. Approval of November 19, 2009 minutes was called, Katie Thomson motioned to approve minutes with a second by Jennifer McDonnell, motion carried, minutes will be posted on website.

I. Initial Presentations

None

II. Action Items

Advanced Placement Art History Revised Proposal – Nan Ochs, Barbara Bernard, Carrie Brannon, Christine LaRue presenting. This proposal was first presented to council at the October 15, 2009 meeting. Several recommendations were made to the presenters; the requested changes to the proposal were made to include all high schools and to bring in the Coordinator for Fine Arts/Music/Physical for input. It was decided that the course coding would be General Education. Teachers will be required to attend professional development and complete the College Board Course Auditing process. Three textbooks were reviewed by the committee, all of which met College Board criteria.

There were several corrections that needed to be made to the proposal as far as cost and prerequisite, these corrections were made and copies of the final proposal were given to council before noon.

Susan Collins motioned to approve AP Art History Proposal dated January 21, 2010, second by Denise Lockwald, motion carried to forward to the Superintendent.

III. Information Items

A. Literacy Lab Site Model – Susan Ali presenting. PreK-12 Writing Implementation.

An overview of the PreK-12 writing implementation which includes Being a Writer and the Grades 7-12 Language Arts Curriculum was provided. It was reiterated that Being a Writer Instructional Materials are U-46 Board of Education approved and adopted instructional materials and are not supplementary.

The district is transitioning to a new professional development model. This is a multi-layered approach that includes lesson study focused on program integrity, one-to-one coaching and modeling to meet teacher's individual needs and lab-site focused on inquiry learning.

Teacher subcommittees are engaged in curriculum writing with the following anticipated outcomes: concepts and topics, essential questions, essential writing skills and strategies, vocabulary, differentiation and common assessments.

Program evaluation at the elementary level will consist of a U-46 writing assessment to be administered in the Fall and Spring of the 2009-2010 school year. This assessment is designed to measure growth over time. Northern Illinois University is conducting the independent evaluation. At the secondary level the ISAT, PSAE and the common assessments that are being developed will be included in the program evaluation.

The following are next steps in the PreK-12 writing implementation: professional development to support and sustain implementation, new curriculum for K-6, completion of secondary curriculums, full implementation in all grades, vertical articulation and district assessments protocol.

A notebook containing agendas, professional development plans and evaluations from many professional development sessions was shared with council.

- B. Response to Intervention (RtI) Update – Carla Cumblad presenting. RtI is funded by the Special Education IDEA Grant, 15% of the grants funds are designated for RtI. Professional development meetings have been held with most buildings. The district is creating a comprehensive action/support plan for RtI.

After the first round of professional development was completed each building was to reflect on three levels of teams in their buildings: building leadership, grade/department teams, and intervention teams.

In order to determine the direction for the district regarding interventions, building teams were asked to complete information regarding interventions in their buildings. This information included the type of intervention, the need it was addressing, who it served and whether or not it was effective.

In order to monitor the progress of students who are in interventions, the district has selected the AIMSweb system. At this time, most K-8 special education students who have literacy goals will be monitored using the system. In addition to progress monitoring, AIMSweb has a screening feature that will be attempted in the Cluster A schools in the winter (tentative) and spring norming period.

The RtI web pages are complete and include information about RtI and PBIS, and are expected to be posted at a later date.

Committees: District RtI Leadership committee provided direction about aspects of the comprehensive district plan. By the end of the year, a revised plan will be complete. The District PBIS Leadership committee's focus is to establish work

groups, review implementation data, problem-solve issues, and involve parents and the community. The LD Eligibility Committee has reviewed the state-required paperwork and procedures. The committee will make recommendations for the referral process, procedures and paperwork. The intention is to develop procedures for the district for all aspects of the entitlement process by the end of the school year.

A second Community Forum was held in December. The goal of the forum is two-fold: Improve the communication and access to and from the schools and the community agencies at all three tiers and work together on specific issues or concerns from the schools particularly regarding the students' social/emotional health.

- C. Curriculum Cycle Update – Lynne Huske presenting. The different stages of the cycle were explained to council. The processes and procedures for the cycle will be completed by the end of this year. It will also identify the year the curriculum for each content area will be reviewed.
- D. AVID Update – Chris Dennison presenting. There are currently 750 middle school and 400 high school students enrolled in the AVID program. Students in the AVID program are required to take notes, using a note taking format, in all of their classes. A “C” grade average must also be maintained. The students engage in tutorial sessions twice a week. These are small group, student-led sessions involving problem-solving. The need for more tutors was articulated.

Council members shared the need for High School AVID teachers to feel less isolated and to consider a standardized dismissal process for the students.

An overview of the quarterly site team meeting, the use of student binders and the need for student identification and recruitment were presented and discussed.

Recruitment for next school year is underway and it was noted that AVID is an elective program.

- E. Elementary Report Card Committee Update – Chris Dennison presenting. The district is seeking to form a committee of certified staff members and administrators that will design a report card for students in grades Kindergarten to 6th grade. As of today, the positions on the committee are only half full. There is a need for more intermediate teachers to participate. The first meeting is scheduled for February 18. The committee will meet during the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year and throughout the 2010-11 school year. Participation is voluntary. The selection process will ensure that all elementary schools and all programs and grade levels are represented. Additional sub-committees may be added as needed to help complete the committee objectives.

IV. Dialogue Topic
None

V. Other

Elimination of HS Courses 2010/2011 – Revised Document. Council members received the revised document showing the rationale for eliminating the courses listed.

FYI – The next CAC Meeting has been scheduled for Friday, February 12, 2010. The meeting will be held at Elgin High School Library at 7:00 p.m. This meeting will take the place of the regular Thursday night CAC meeting. The meeting is being called a Legislative Town Hall meeting to discuss unfunded mandates with several area legislators. Please make every effort to attend.

Kathy Turnquist motioned to adjourn at 1:40, seconded by Susan Collins, motion carried.