



SCHOOL DISTRICT U-46

INSTRUCTIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 20, 2011

8:30 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

ESC, ROOM 240

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Attendance

Members: Celia Banks, Jan Booth, Lori Brandes, Susan Collins, Terri DeDecker, Heather Fodor, Maryelvn Friel, Kim Hancock, Doug Johnson, Patricia Makishima, Jennifer McDonnell, Wendy Molof, Lisa Olsem, Lavonne Smiley, Nan Strohmaier, Rosa Syphers, Katie Thomson, Pamela Tonyan, Lisa Whitmer, Renee Zabel

Absent: Susan Colombe, Dan Hoffman, Denise Lockwald, Sarah Nammari, Michelle Rogers Besch

Observers: Craig Williams

Guests:

Presenters: Nan Ochs, Mary Henk, Anni Schneider, Fran Stevens, Bill DuBois, Andrea Dombrowski, Laura Fukuda, and Doreen Roberts

Lynn Glaser welcomed members of Instructional Council.

The Instructional Council Minutes from October 21, 2010 were reviewed. A motion by Lisa Olsem to approve the minutes, seconded by Katie Thomson, motion to approve carried.

I. Initial Presentations

None

II. Action Items

None

III. Information Items

- A. RtI Update and Apex Learning - Nan Ochs, Mary Henk, Anni Schneider and Fran Stevens presenting. The council was updated on the progress of the RtI initiative. The starting point of the initiative is for K-8 students. Meetings were held with principals at the elementary and middle school level. The process for high school will begin during the second semester. Ms. Ochs stated that this process is not promoting Aimsweb as a universal screener instead MAP and DLB are being used. Teacher input is very important in this general education process. A flow chart of the Intervention Process for Academics and Behavior was distributed along with a folder to be used by the Intervention Team. The folder serves as a tool to document achievement, instructional and behavioral goals and the implementation of interventions.

Ms. Ochs stated that interventions vary by school and include such tools as Lexia, Study Island, Compass Learning and Leveled Literacy Intervention. Many of these interventions have built-in progress monitoring tools. A council member expressed concern regarding finding the time during the school day to provide interventions for students in need.

Council members questioned when folders were sent to the schools. It was stated that elementary schools received their folders in October and middle school folders were sent in November. The principal decides when the folders are to be introduced to their Intervention Team. Many council members stated that this was the first time seeing these folders. Again, it was stated that the principal is the person responsible for distribution of the folders in their building.

Schools are at different stages in regards to implementation. The RtI initiative needs to be fully implemented by July of 2011. The presenters stressed their willingness to help intervention teams as they navigate through the RtI process. Nan Ochs and the coaches can be contacted via phone or e-mail.

Discussion was held on APEX Learning – no new developments have occurred, this is still a work in progress. Our district is implementing the tool for credit recovery and intervention at this time based on the recommendation of APEX. Unit recovery may occur in the future. Each high school has APEX representatives.

- B. Dual Language Update - Patricia Makishima presenting. Handouts were distributed which included the ELL Department Professional Development Plan for 2010-2011, Dual Language Frequently Asked Questions and the power point presentation. Beginning in 2011-2012, the English Language Learners Program in the district will begin to transition from the current Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) program model in Spanish to a TBE Dual Language program model district-wide. This transition will begin with grades Pre-K through 2.

Current and updated Dual Language information such as research, updated events and information, links to dual language websites, resources, and communication to educators and parents can be found on www.u-46.org/ell. In addition to the website, as specific instructional tools become available, they will be posted on the intranet: <http://intranet.u-46.org> under *Instructional Departments – English Language Learners*.

- C. Curriculum Cycle Update- Lynne Huske presenting. This presentation was rescheduled due to time constraints.
- D. Elementary Report Card Committee Update - Lynn Glaser presenting. Much work has been done in the revamping of the report card in the hopes of rolling out the new format for the upcoming school year. The committee is hoping that our Information Services department will be able to create an electronic version of the report cards for elementary schools. Alignment of the Illinois State Learning Standards and the Common Core Standards has been a focus on the new report cards; however, the common core standards have not been rolled out yet. The committee is recommending switching from quarters to trimester reporting. The intent of the committee is to create tools that reflect the current curriculum and clearly communicate student competencies to students, parents and staff.
- E. Balanced Literacy Survey Results - Barbara Bettis, Lisa Whitmer presenting. A copy of the power point was distributed to members of council. The presenters reviewed the results of a survey that was distributed to elementary teachers on November 1, 2010 via

district email. The survey closed on November 24, 2010. A total of 318 teachers responded. There are approximately 850 elementary teachers for the 2010 - 2011 school year. The survey reflects approximately thirty-seven percent of elementary teachers. The presenters felt this information provides baseline data and would be helpful in regards to the planning of future communication and professional development.

- F. Teacher Effectiveness Initiative - Bill DuBois, Andrea Dombrowski, Laura Fukuda, and Doreen Roberts presenting. Mr. DuBois reviewed, via a power point presentation the history and progress of this initiative.

In regards to the TAP, ninety-six percent of teachers have signed a Statement of Assurance.

Ms. Roberts shared information regarding the National Board Certification, the highest teaching credential a teacher can receive. Our district currently has 53 National Board Certified teachers. There is currently a pilot program for National Board Certification for Principals.

Mr. DuBois also indicated that they are trying to re-institute a Future Teachers of America program in the high schools.

Review of the Teacher Mentor program was presented by Ms. Fukuda.

The large stride the district has made in partnerships with the Universities in our area through the Interconnect Forum was discussed. Interconnect meets three times a year with representatives from the Universities and U-46 stakeholders to discuss current trends and the needs of the district to fill our teaching positions. The Universities work with human resources on student teacher placements and observations. The next meeting of the Interconnect Forum will take place on January 28, 2011 and will be hosted by U-46.

IV. Dialogue Topic

- A. Reviewing Robert's Rules of Order – A video, prepared by the IEA, was reviewed showing the proper procedures for conducting meetings.

- B. Develop Agenda Summary

V. Other

Motion by Susan Collins, seconded by Heather Fodor to adjourn the meeting, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.