

CENTRAL COLUMBIA SCHOOL DISTRICT CURRICULUM DEPARTMENT

STRATEGIC PLAN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE Minutes

Wednesday, March 31, 2010
3:45 P.M.
District Office Board Room

I. Called to order by Dr. John Kurelja

II. Attendance:

Luanne Bittenbender, Lynne Brown, Janice Dysart, Jim Hollister,
Dr. John Kurelja, Dr. Swapan Mookerjee, Kim Shultz, Mike Sokoloski,
Beth Snyder

III. Improve District Communication – John Monick (handout attached)

- a. Investigate placement of exterior message boards
 - i. We investigated the possibility of purchasing an exterior message board. The cost of doing this was significant and we did not feel the gain would be worth the investment. We use our website and bluejay notify to communicate with the community in the same manner the message board would. We are not going to purchase a message board at this time.
- b. Provide Comprehensive Career information to parents and students
 - i. We provide a wealth of information through our website.
 - ii. Each school has their own webpage.
 - iii. The high school now posts a daily bulletin which includes the announcements, menu and after school activities.
 - iv. If you select “Courses” under the High School drop down menu you can access the “Pathways to Success Planner: 2010-2011”
 - v. This is something we will be continuing to work on.
- c. Provide for systematic parent/community feedback
 - i. We sent home postcards which included a web address. Parents then went online and completed a survey.
 - ii. Roundtable Meetings- Principals either tried or considered these meetings and did not feel the parent participation warranted their continuation.
- d. Provide opportunities to help parents access communication resources off of the district website.
 - i. Means of Presenting District Information

1. District News, Public Notice, ES, MS & HS Building News and Archive
 2. Bluejay Notify
 3. Gradebook
 4. Jayphone
 5. District e-mail for staff and students
 6. Teacher web pages
- ii. On-line Training
1. Atomic Learning – Online tutorials for a variety of current technology.
 2. Discovery Education – Video streaming service that effectively organizes information for teacher use by topics and by standards.
 3. Moodle – Classroom management system being used by teachers across the district.
 4. Plato – Will be phased out of the district
 5. Odyssey – Has expanded offerings that serve all grades.
- e. Upgrade telecommunications systems
- i. Consider Phones with external access in classrooms
1. HS – Will have phones with external access after the renovation project is complete. However, these phones will be set with the same restrictions on incoming calls during the day as we currently use in the middle school.
 2. MS – Has them in place now.
 3. ES – In 2010-2011 Capital Project budget and is scheduled for implementation. Once again this will be handled in a similar manner as the MS.
 4. The phones go directly to voicemail during school hours; however, they are always available for outgoing calls in case of an emergency (911).
- ii. Develop portal for parent access to information software
1. There is an information portal in progress.
 2. When completed this will allow parents to go to one place to get information on their child.
- iii. Telecommunication upgrades
1. District wide telephone system in place
 2. District wide voicemail in place
 3. One phone number for District is in place. The new system allows for many different lines to be use with that one system so that busy signals and clogged lines are no longer a problem.
- iv. Wireless internet
1. HS – Classrooms of the Future Grant funded a wireless overlay
 2. MS – Building Overlay
 3. ES – Minimal
 4. DO – Minimal

- v. Questions/Comments
 - 1. When is the staff trained?
 - a. Mr. Monick and the Curriculum Office schedule trainings. We surveyed teachers about training. We had many say they would commit to training in order to get new technology.

IV. MATHEMATICS – Joe Kelchner (handout attached)

- a. Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
 - i. Align Curriculum to PA Academic Standards
 - ii. Align Instruction to Student Needs
 - iii. Assess Student Attainment of Academic Standards
 - iv. Researched and Implement successful teaching practices and programs to support them.
 - 1. Dr. Mookerjee asked for more data to support what is being presented. We have our own results, other district statistics, and federal government statistics. We will work to create a place where you can access all of this research. This will provide a vehicle for a person to gather information about past or to investigate current programs being used in the district.

- v. Questions/Comments
 - 1. A concern that was previously expressed was how colleges will treat transcripts that do not have a course titled “Algebra I”. Colleges will look for completion of Algebra II.
 - 2. How long have we done Everyday Math?
 - 3. A request was made to use the term “research” judiciously and to provide access to that research when it is mentioned.
 - 4. A committee member would like to see what impact Everyday Math has on students. Are we better off?

V. Maximize Student Achievement – Dr. John Kurelja

- a. TECHNOLOGY – Network and Internet Access
- b. The district will pursue activities to improve student academic achievement
 - i. Address Parent/School Relationships
 - 1. We have focused on this in two ways: guidance department and technology.
 - ii. Create a Differentiated Supervision Model
 - 1. All of the administration has been observing classes on a much more frequent basis.
 - 2. Each teacher is seen twice every other cycle.
 - 3. We are now having teachers go out to see other teachers.
 - 4. Administrators and lead teachers are holding reflection meetings to discuss what is being seen in the classrooms.

5. We are setting up a system similar to a Doctor's rounds where teachers will go out to see our best teachers teach and then discuss what was seen. This will be for the benefit of the teachers that go out on "rounds".
6. We will be training our department heads to go out to do curriculum audits across the district.
- iii. Create Individualized Professional Development Plans for All Staff
 1. Professional development plans should be more individually tailored and we are working to address this.
 2. This will be fostered by the continued development of SMART goals across the district.
- iv. Complete Employ Certified Personnel in All Academic Areas
 1. This is complete and is embedded in our hiring practices.
- v. Expand the Role of the Act 48 Committee
 1. We were developing the Act 48 Plan at the same time as the Strategic Plan. We have decided to wait until the Strategic Plan is complete so we can meet the needs identified through the mid-point review.
- vi. Provide Customized Learning Opportunities
 1. VLN is a company the district has partnered with to develop our own online courses. This is being accomplished in conjunction with other schools in the Heartland Coalition to provide greater offerings to our students.
 - a. Our first priority is to get the cyber school program in place.
 - i. Mr. Mathias did meet with many parents whose children attend Cyber Charter Schools and found that they would be willing to come back to Central to get a Central Columbia Diploma.
 - ii. The main focus would be to entice our students who are currently enrolled in Cyber Charter Schools to come back to Central's own Cyber Program.
 - iii. Running our own program would be less than half the cost we are currently sending to Cyber Charter Schools around the state.
 - b. There will be the opportunity in the future for us to expand our offerings to our regular education students.
 - c. We also can use this program to support our alternative education program and to offer more credit recovery programs.

- d. The company also has it in their contract that if they do not save us money we do not have to pay their yearly fee.
 - e. There are parts of this program that we have not yet answered that will have to be dealt with as situations present themselves.
- vii. Revise the Teacher Induction Program
 - 1. This program is revised yearly based on surveys of new inductees.
 - 2. We also add and subtract offerings based on initiatives taking place around the district.
- viii. Study the Use of Extended Learning Opportunities for all Students
 - 1. This has direct connections to the VLN discussion and the Use of Time study.
- ix. Study the Use of Time
- x. Questions/Concerns
 - 1. What does an individualized professional development plan look like?
 - 2. State and Federal PSSA requirements are very low (but moving up quickly). Smart Goals contain our personal goals which exceed the state requirements.
 - 3. Full Day Kindergarten – Is on the agenda to be reviewed in the year to come.
 - 4. Race to the Top – Is the new program being promoted by the Federal Government. Its major tenets will likely find themselves in the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

VI. Next meeting will be held on Monday, April 12th at 3:45 p.m.

VII. Adjournment