

MINUTES

Date of Meeting: January 25, 2011

Type of Meeting: Worksession

Place of Meeting: Middle School Auditorium

Members Present: President Dennis Ryan
Vice President Patrick E. Gallagher
Board Member Gina Guma
Board Member Darlene Tangney
Board Member Roy Lester

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Dr. Robert Greenberg, Superintendent
Dr. Randie Berger, Deputy Superintendent
Dr. Vincent Butera, Assistant Superintendent – Curriculum
and Instruction
Mr. Josh Anisansel, Director of Curriculum, English
Ms. Kristine Farrell, LBHS English Teacher
Ms. Jeanne O’Shea, LBHS English Teacher
Mr. Sean Hurley, Director of Curriculum, Social Studies
Mr. Michael DeVito, Chief Operating Officer
Ms. Carole Butler, District Clerk

I. Call to Order/Pledge/Opening Remarks

President Ryan called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Thanked MS for a wonderful winter concert.

Call to Order

II. Discussion on Worksession Topics:

Worksession Topics: 9th Grade English Language Arts 9th Grade Social Studies

9th Grade English Language Arts Presentation

Introduced by Vincent Butera and presented by Josh Anisansel, Kristine Farrell and Jeanne O’Shea.

Goal is for 100% graduation rate and 100% success in preparing students for the skills necessary for college. Achieve goals by: providing the opportunity for rigorous coursework, articulating high expectations and providing proper support for all students.

Presentation Highlights include: Program Design, Demands of the 21st Century Workplace and Higher Education, 9H Curriculum Comparison, Curriculum, Performance Assessments, Writing, Scholastic Reading Inventories, Professional Development and Support, Parent Feedback, Literacy Teaching, College Graduation Rate. Presentation is available on-line.

- Vice President Gallagher expressed concerns about the challenges of the curriculum for high achieving students. Ms. Farrell and Ms. O’Shea discussed the individual attention provided by conferences, portfolios, literacy circles and independent reading.
- Board Member Lester questioned the homogenous groupings within the heterogeneous classes, communal benefits, accurate methodology judgments, and the limited time spent on critiquing writing. Mr. Anisansel explained that growth is measured by SRI and continuous assessments.
- Board Member Tangney asked about the conference discussions, the learning/teaching of grammar, and the percentage of students able to teach themselves. Teachers use Rubriks, small groups, model writing and Read 180 classroom.
- Board Member Guma inquired as to whether this model was going to continue into the 10th and 11th grades.
- President Ryan asked about midterms, assessments, grammar, and needs/shortcomings of the program. Only shortcoming mentioned was over-assessing.

9th Grade Social Studies Presentation by Sean Hurley

Highlights of the presentation include: 21st Century Skills, College and Work Force Readiness, IB, Assessments, Depth vs. Breadth of Study, Learner Profile, and Understanding of Design. Focus on establishing clear expectations, big ideas, and making connections and creating COOL TO BE SMART attitude. 9th and 6th grade curricula include: high expectations for all students, common planning times, and professional development for teachers, differentiated instruction, small class size and common assessments. Presentation is available on-line.

III. Public Comment on the Worksession Topic

Public Comment on Worksession Topic
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- Cathy Musk/Linda Morgenstern – LBHS PTSA Co-Presidents
Thanked staff for excellent presentations which gives them hope for the future. They suggested a long-term student/parent group be created to evaluate the success of the program; important to have student ownership and engagement. They liked the “cool to be smart” idea since presently, high achieving students are bullied.
- Julie Simms – 26 West Broadway – enjoyed the presentations and asked if we could receive input from other very successful Nassau County districts. Dr. Greenberg responded that we do that regularly; Dr. Butera concurred that districts meet monthly with some meetings bi-weekly.
- John Gilmore – 550 E. Chester – questioned the tracking and untracking of students in grades 6 through 12.

Dr. Greenberg commented that many of our students go on to very fine colleges. The new 9th grade programs in English and Social Studies will help them be better prepared for higher level classes like IB and AP and be accepted and succeed at the college of their choice.

IV. Board of Education Comments

Board of Education Comments

- Vice President Gallagher expressed interest in a 4-5 year study/survey of Long Beach HS graduates to discover what they felt helped them in college. He advocates higher level learning by 7th or 8th grade so that students may take advantage of the college courses available to them at the HS.
- Dr. Ryan is concerned about balance- MS becoming HS – HS becoming college – our mission is prioritizing. Philosophical discussions are the best discussions.

Dr. Greenberg interjected that everyone is correct; it is the difficult task of the district to weave the social, emotional, and academic needs of students into a logical and helpful sequence.

- Board Member Guma is concerned with 10th and 11th grade curriculum. There is a need to get back to basics with writing skills and grammar. Dr. Butera wants to expand the model, balance classrooms, hand-select groupings, use common planning time, support for students.
- Board Member Lester inquired about graduation statics – 25%/4 yrs for LB students.
- VP Gallagher questioned the coordination of curriculum between English and Social Studies.
- Dr. Ryan asked about the role of current events in the curriculum. Mr. Hurley discussed the connections made between events in history. Dr. Ryan thanked Dr. Greenberg once again for moving in this direction – looking into our instructional programs to challenge our students, maximizing our resources and in so doing, benefitting our students. He thanked the teachers and Group B, as well.

V. President Ryan called for a motion to adjourn the Worksession at 9:43 PM.

Motion by: Vice President Gallagher

Seconded by: Board Member Guma

Approved: 5-0

Adjournment

Minutes submitted by:

Carole Butler, District Clerk

February 8, 2011