

BCS Professional Study Committee Notes 2/3/2011

Present: J. Modert, C. Konkel, L. Franks, K. Sobeski, J. Brazo, M. Bielawski, T. Long, D. Koenemann, H. Gest, M. Heifner, W. McCrea

Introductions were made.

Jim talked about the need for the committee and the history of its inception. The potentiality for the committee has existed for many years, but it has not been used prior to this. The hope for this committee is that it would provide opportunities for shared leadership and meaningful collaboration. This committee may be the umbrella under which a variety of ad hoc sub-committees will work.

The structure and work of this committee is described in Article 20 of the current master agreement between the BEA and BCS.

Mark Heifner and Jackie Brazo volunteered to serve as co-chairs of this committee. Dixie Koenemann will serve as recorder.

Jim Modert will talk with BEA leaders about possibilities for compensation in various forms for members of this committee and/or members of sub-committees.

It was agreed to place six topics for future work on the agenda:

1. Choice of a professional evaluation system to be used in evaluating teachers—This system must comply with Michigan PA 205 by 9/1/2011. This topic will be referred to the jurisdiction of the BCS Board of Education and the BEA for negotiation.
2. Development of a K-12 Literacy Plan—The need for this work is clearly indicated by BCS student achievement data. We also cite the importance of reading/writing ability for academic success in all content areas.
3. Development/revision of the district technology plan—The development/maintenance of an effective tech plan is essential to qualify for E-Rate funding and to ensure access to powerful technology for use in teaching and learning.
4. Development of a district wellness plan—indicators are present to demonstrate the need for improved wellness for staff and students. Research indicates that improved wellness increases the likelihood of improved staff attendance, student attendance, and student achievement.

5. Building a culture of college readiness—Options will be explored to encourage students to embrace higher education options from an early age and throughout their school careers.
6. Building a culture of collaboration among the school, parents, and the community—Obstacles will be identified to meaningful collaboration, and outreach strategies will be developed to welcome parents and the community to aid in our mission of educating students. It was mentioned that Dixie & Jim have been learning to use School Messenger to do phone surveys and data produced from these surveys may be an aid to this sub-committee.

Future meeting dates, times, plans were discussed. It was mentioned that this group will meet regularly while subcommittees are being formed and, at some point, these meetings may diminish in frequency while work is being done in subcommittees. Thursdays after school appears to be the best option for the greatest number of members at this time.

Next meeting: February 17th, 3:15 p.m., Chicago Street School