

District 67 Education Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 17, 2011
Lake Forest High School West Campus
8:15am -10:25am

Participants: Dr. Andy Henrikson, Julie Cooley, Dr. Griffith, Joel Malin, and Michelle Shinn represented the Administration. Bill Andersen and myself represented the Board of Education, and community members and District 67 parents Amy Lazzaratto and Roger Quon were present. Laura Montgomery, teacher and Technology Coach, attended as well.

I. Approval of minutes from September 20 meeting were first made by Mr. Andersen, and seconded by Dr. Henrikson.

II. Reports to Education Committee

-Tier 1, 2 and 3 Interventions- Dr. Michelle Shinn presented a summary of Tiered Reading Support in Grades 1-4. These **reading services** are provided to give a variety of levels of support, based on the students' particular needs. In September, school teams meet to review a variety of data to determine eligibility for services. MAP tests, teacher input, guided reading levels, and Curriculum-Based Measures in Reading all help to determine the level of support needed.

Tier 1 is the core curriculum and is provided to all students in general education. Tier 2 is a supplement to the core curriculum, provided by a general education teacher or a reading specialist, in small groups of 30-40 minutes, 4-5 times/week. Tier 3 is supplemental or replacement curriculum, providing up to an additional 60 minutes/day to the core curriculum. This tier may include students receiving special education programming in reading. Parents are notified if students receive Tier 2 or Tier 3 support. Progress is monitored as often as once/week for students receiving Tier 2 or 3 interventions.

Overall, the number of students needing Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions continues to decrease, and student growth rates and movement across the tiers remains positive. In order to further reduce the reading achievement gap between students across the Tiers, the following practices are recommended:

- a) trimester review of movement across the tiers by school to ensure positive student growth as well as appropriate changes in level of instruction
- b) continue to ensure consistency in programming and time across all schools
- c) consider using reading specialists as coaches in general education classrooms to strengthen the delivery of the core curriculum

Graphs included in the report may show varied results by school, however, this is mainly due to new students, mid-year move-ins, etc.

The District has been creative re administering the tier interventions, by using Reading Specialists, support services staff, including teacher assistants, and teachers who have Masters in Reading. 85% of the teachers who have Masters Degrees in our buildings, have them in Reading.

The full report can be found on the District website.

-Assessment Report- This well-detailed report will be posted on our website, as well as presented at our BOE meeting on Tues., November 29. To recap briefly, Julie Cooley and Joe Malin presented this report to the Education Committee. They explained that the **NWEA MAP** test measures growth of students, and teachers value it. Goals are formed in the beginning of the year, based on the test given early in the school year, to then be administered again in the spring. The NWEA test will be changing soon, as a written response section will be piloted. The state test that our students now take, will be shifting to a national test circa 2014. The AYP Status Report will be addressed at this month's BOE meeting.

Also addressed by Julie and Joe; our Math Facts in a Flash program (taken on NEOs) with reference to a case study from Renaissance Learning re keyboarding, writing skills, and math facts.

-21st Century Learning- Laura Montgomery gave the Education Committee an update on our 1:1 **Netbook** Program.

She informed us that building 21st Century Learning within these technologies helps with four C's: **Creation, Collaboration, Critical Thinking, and Communication**. She noted that students have a more diverse toolbox to pull from now. They share knowledge student to student, and can work as a part of a team, an important life skill. They also have the opportunity to develop their self-direction skills. Students can communicate as a class within safe, controlled blogs and on-line discussion boards.

An especially important point made by Laura is that our curriculum is just as strong, but now our teachers and students have more time and opportunities to engage in critical thinking. Time is no longer wasted as students wait for their classmates to finish using textbooks or other reference materials. Each child can be hands on and acquire knowledge now. Consideration is also given re deciphering of factual v. inaccurate information. As Lake Bluff students use Mac books, we find the Netbooks to be not only less expensive, but limitless, as we are not tied in to specific programs only designed for Mac computers. District 67 students will partake in a more broad view of educational tools. Our DPM students are learning management skills by caring for their Netbooks, while improving self-reliance as they utilize tools such as Ed Line and Power School. At our December BOE meeting, DPM students will share their Netbook experiences, either in person or via video.

III. February Education Committee Meeting

-IB(Baccalaureate) Program- Colleen Brueggeman, Director of Gifted Services, will discuss the IB program, as well as depict the current practice in Fourth Grade EXPLORE classes as it relates to their study of water.

-21st Century Learning- Next year's goals will be discussed.

IV. Adjourn- The Education Committee will meet to review and recommend suggestions for the **District Dashboard** on Monday, December 5 at 8:15am, West Campus. Committee members were asked to submit comments/suggestions to Dr. Henrikson by Monday, November 28, in preparation for the upcoming meeting. In addition, Dr. Henrikson will communicate updates from the **Curriculum Coordinating Committee** via email attachment of the minutes from the most recent meeting(s) of the CCC.

V. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Education Committee will be on **February 14 at 8:15am**, West Campus.