

Ida Curriculum Council Meeting Summary
November 7, 2007

In attendance: Shelley Hoffman, Joan Boyer, Marv Dick, Amy Janssen, Peggy Bonnough, Amy LaVigne-Benore, Alissabeth Fox, Forrest Wenman, David Eack, Amy Costello, Kathy Whitman, Joe Rathke, Cathy Griffith, Sherry Ely, Theresa Drouilliard, Kelly Hurley, Amy Hempel, and Jill Becker.

Mr. Dick - Budget

Mr. Dick joined the curriculum meeting to give a brief overview of the budget process. The state passed the proposed State Aid bill on October 29th. However, Mr. Dick warned that we still must be cautious and conservative in budgeting for Fiscal Year 2009. While we budgeted for 1,730 students this school year, our latest count indicates we ended up with only 1,705 students. It is predicted Ida will receive \$7,204 per student, which is an additional \$119 over what was budgeted. However, these figures can change as the state's revenue sources are unstable.

Mr. Dick added that while Ida is in better financial shape than a lot of surrounding districts, we still must be conservative in building our future budget. One big concern will be the rise in energy costs. Heating fuel and gas for buses are uncontrollable and increasing expenditures. In addition, all employee contracts will expire in 2008. Because of the uncertainty in funding from the state, Mr. Dick will recommend 0% increases in preliminary budget figures.

K-12 Communications:

Science Report - District science teachers met Wednesday morning to look at the anticipated curriculum changes. The first approved Science GLCEs were published for kindergarten through the seventh grade; however, they will undergo one more significant update hopefully to receive final approval by December 2007. According to Amy LaVigne-Benore, the teachers realize the state mandated GLCEs (Grade Level content Expectations) will be in the students' best interest, and that it may also require a great deal of change and adjustment on their part. Adjustments will be made once the GLCEs are in their final form. For example, changes to anticipate most likely include where *Weather* should be taught. The GLCEs will help to eliminate the duplication of some topics taught in the 4th and 5th grades. According to Mrs. Griffith, Earth Science will no longer be considered a 7th grade course; instead it will be an 8th grade class and part of the High School curriculum.

The K-4 teachers will also to take a wait and see approach; however, they are well prepared to make any necessary shifts in topics and instruction required by the finalized document. When the GLCEs are released later this month, it is anticipated there will be a need for different materials and hands-on resources within the classrooms. It was also suggested that an exchange of present classroom materials would be a beneficial and cost effective plan.

It was agreed to meet again on February 18th to discuss the science curriculum. It was suggested a half day may be appropriate, though this is open to change.

Social Studies Report - On December 5th, following the morning Curriculum Council meeting, building social studies representatives will meet in the afternoon to review the district Social Studies GLCEs and HSCEs (high school content expectations). They will focus on the current curriculum and whether it complies with state mandates.

Cadet Teacher Program (Cathy Griffith) - There are currently 20 students who have expressed an interest in teaching and are enrolled in this program. Mrs. Griffith said they have a syllabus and are required to keep a journal. Most of the cadets are placed in the Elementary School while a few are in the Middle School. Mrs. Griffith has received positive feedback and believes it is a wonderful experience for our high school students.

Blue Streak Buddy Program

Another program cherished by our high school and elementary students is the Blue Streak Buddy Program. This program began nearly twenty years ago with about fifteen students. There are currently 54 high school buddies providing friendship and companionship for some of our elementary students who may be experiencing problems at home or may just need a friend. They get together once a week to play games, talk, or just be there for that person. An elementary portable is set up for the buddies; the high school gym teacher and art teacher also allow these students to come into their rooms during their time together.

M.S. Math Restructuring - While Melissa Benware has relocated in the high school on a permanent basis. She is teaching Algebra in two-hour blocks. Ann Crosby has filled the independent math position in the Middle School. Ms. Crosby is working with students to strengthen their math skills through reinforcement and remediation. According to Shelley Hoffman, who is serving as Ann's mentor, Ann is performing a lot of hands-on activities with the students and doing a great job.

E.S. Writing Interventions - Shelley Hoffman instructs Elementary School Reading/Writing classes for 20 to 40 minutes a day depending on the age level. The students are scheduled in groups with instructional plans based on curriculum guidelines and the writing GLCEs. Shelley added that the students are making strides and progressing nicely.

Elementary Counselor

Joan Boyer informed the group of the new part time elementary counselor, Nicole Ryan. Currently, Nicole is conducting six separate group meetings, grades K - 4, based on students' needs. Groups include Friendship, Loss, Divorce, Anger Management, Bullying, and Organization (Desk, Book Bag and Folders). All students must meet qualifying criteria to receive services, a requirement for Section 31a funding received for this position.

Countywide Inservice - November 1, 2007

Love and Logic (Joan Boyer)

Joan handed out a flyer on Love and Logic in the Classroom. It describes how you can handle adverse student behavior in a positive way without compounding the situation. It takes practice to learn how to handle responses to a student's behavior. There are various things we can do which makes all the difference toward a positive outcome. The philosophy of Love and Learning places the burden of responsibility for behavior and choices on the student's shoulders while still providing guidance.

Flattening World and Flat Classrooms

Cathy Griffith spoke briefly about a meeting she attended which emphasized teaching our students to become better learners. We all need to evaluate and question the validity of the source from which all information is gathered.

Technology Updates:

eSchool - grades (Cathy Griffith)

Struggles continue with the new system. Most of the teachers and secretaries find it frustrating and time consuming. It was suggested that all problems be channeled through either Ben or Wendy, who would then contact Sandy Whitcomb at the ISD.

Parent Group Reports:

Elementary PTA

- The E.S. PTA has been very active and is doing a great job with their fundraising events. They are asking for feedback from teachers about how the money raised can best be spent for the students. Amy Janssen suggested a survey of what teachers may want and placing it in their mailboxes.
- The E.S. PTA has been very busy rounding out a couple of successful fundraisers. The Sally Foster sale (gift wrap and small gifts) ended October 22nd with over \$10,000 in sales and receiving 40-50% profit. The October book fair resulted in a cash profit of \$1,250 and \$500 in book profit for the teachers.
- The next book fair is scheduled for January 28th. The PTA will receive a 60% profit and expect to donate all proceeds to the Elementary School library. Many parents have expressed an interest in holding this event during the evening combined with other family activities. The PTA is hoping to get the teachers involved by possibly dressing up as reading book characters, such as The Cat in the Hat.
- The basketball program, for 1st - 4th graders, is ending this week. An award ceremony will be held Wednesday, November 14th.
- Santa's Secret Workshop will be held December 4th - 6th.
- A family bowling event scheduled for December 8th will be at the Monroe Sports Center.

Middle School PTO

- The M.S. PTO has also been very active. They are currently selling lanyards which can be purchased online or by phone.
- McDonald coupon booklets are also available online or by phone. They cost only \$3.00 and are a \$40 value.
- The PTO recently purchased 57 quizzes for the Accelerated Reading Program. It was discovered that many of the materials were outdated. With Shelley Hoffman's assistance, the 5th and 6th grade children suggested books they were interested in and needed the quizzes. The PTO was able to purchase all the quizzes, adding to the collection of the Accelerated Reading Program.
- The PTO will be sponsoring a Celebrity Scoop Night at Maggie Moos on November 14th from 5-7 p.m. They are hoping to enlist the teachers help with scooping the ice cream.
- A bake sale will be held December 14th.
- On December 21st the PTO will sponsor a luncheon for the entire staff. They are currently in the process of getting quotes on catering services.

Adjournment 3:00 p.m.

Next Curriculum Council Meeting: December 5, 2007, 8:15 - 11:00 a.m., High School Media Center
12:30 - 3:00 p.m. Social Studies Representatives K-12 (Building Review Teams)