

In attendance: Shelley Hoffman, Joan Boyer, Amy Janssen, Peggy Bonnough, Amy LaVigne-Benore, Koa Yntema, Alissabeth Fox, Forrest Wenman, Joe Rathke, Cathy Griffith, Dale Heil, Lisa Cusumano, Theresa Drouilliard, Kelly Hurley, Amy Hempel, and Jill Becker.

### High School Communications

Ida High School has adopted the Michigan Merit Curriculum. Currently every sophomore is taking Geometry, Chemistry, and English, along with the regular requirements. Mr. Johnson is teaching seven hours of Chemistry. There are approximately 18 students in Physics I. Next year, all juniors will be enrolled in this class. All freshmen are currently taking Biology. Studies have shown the most successful ACT scores are achieved when students have taken all the above classes.

There are currently 30 freshmen taking Algebra I in a two-hour block. This class allows for a greater emphasis on concepts at a slower pace, with some homework but less than the usual amount. Students in this two-hour block generally need to develop a stronger work ethic: a lack of knowledge is not the issue for most in this class.

Some seniors are enrolled in both Physics II and Biology II and are able to graduate with five science credits. Only three credits are mandated to graduate.

Cathy Griffith praised the staff for their extra effort in successfully working through this new schedule. She added that the students have also adjusted well.

Typically 64 to 65 juniors and seniors dual enroll each semester. The most common classes taken at MCCC are English Comp I and II and Psychology.

The high school's goals for school improvement are related to informational writing and informational reading. All classrooms must incorporate strategies to increase the writing and reading skills. Cathy emphasized that it is also important to continue what teachers have been doing in the past, such as focusing on grammar. The high school English department is utilizing the Macomb English Language Arts Curriculum Resources for grades 9-12 to address content expectations.

Cathy Griffith shared the results of the Spring 2007 MME. Of 133 students taking the test, 49 scored proficient and did not have to retest because they received a score of 1 or 2 on all parts of the test. Every student must take the MME to graduate; however, reaching proficiency is not a requirement for graduation.

Mrs. Griffith praised the staff and students for a job well done. Ida's ACT scores were above the national average. The top score on the ACT is a 36, Ida's college bound students scored an average of 27. Ida's composite score was 19.9. Ida's weakest area, writing, was still near the top in Monroe County. Compared to the other schools in the county, Ida students also excelled in math, science and social studies.

### Middle School Communications

The Middle School welcomed two new 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, Ms. Amber McDevitt and Ms. Jessica Thompson.

Melissa Benware is now teaching algebra full-time in the high school; a permanent sub is filling in for her middle school classes.

Congratulations to Shelley Hoffman who applied for and received a \$10,000 grant from DTE Energy Foundation to enhance the math curriculum at the Middle School. Classroom performance system units will

be purchased to use in the math classrooms. The CPS computer program with hand held clickers is an excellent tool to assess student learning in a fun and engaging learning environment.

The current draft of the science GLCEs outlines content expectations through grade 7. It is anticipated that Ida's 7<sup>th</sup> grade science curriculum, currently Earth Science, will need to be adjusted. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade Physical Science curriculum must also be evaluated to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn the required information. HSCEs, high school content expectations, begin with specific course requirements in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

The curriculum committee recommended that the science GLCEs be reviewed at each grade level. The November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the curriculum committee is scheduled for the afternoon. The morning of the 5<sup>th</sup> will provide an opportunity for one teacher representative from each grade level to meet and discuss grade level expectations for science instruction. Please see your school improvement team chairperson/s for more information.

The middle school's improvement goals are supported by MEAP results and include a focus for improved student achievement in writing and mathematics.

Joan asked that each building team email their most recent school improvement plans to her for the annual report. Plans must be made available to the ISD and are due, along with the District's Annual Report each year in October.

A question was raised regarding the syllabus for the middle school Backyard History class. Is participation in the Backyard History Class a requirement in order for a student to work on the school yearbook? Joan Boyer offered to find out this information.

### Elementary School Communications

The Elementary School welcomed their new 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, Ms. Angie Funchion, and the transfer of Mike Williams and Shelley Hoffman from the Middle School to the Elementary School.

Ms. Boyer was pleased to announce that bus discipline issues have been minimal. Also, there have been no playground issues, due in part to the variety of activities and equipment now available to the students.

A behavioral intervention program has been reestablished; a lunch detention room is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays for 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grade students who have discipline issues unresolved by other means. Amy Janssen and Randy Turner staff the detention room. So far, only two students have been assigned to 50 minute lunch detention.

A new program, called the Coach Mike Program, is headed by Mike Williams, the elementary physical education teacher. He is able to provide emotional support while meeting with 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grade students who may be struggling with behavioral and friendship issues. He provides weekly game activities where students can learn about sportsmanship, making better choices and learning to accept responsibility for their own actions.

Teachers at each grade level share the same planning period. This allows the teachers to have a consistent time each day to meet and discuss their activities and plans.

A small committee will interview five applicants for the half-time elementary counselor position. A decision should be reached on Friday, with an anticipated starting date of Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> following board approval on October 8<sup>th</sup>.

Sixty-nine elementary students were referred for the Blue Streak Buddy Program; only 28 high school buddies are available. With the number to be cut back to approximately 54 students, Amy Hempel is hoping the Coach Mike Program is able to help especially with those students unable to be matched to a buddy.

There are currently up to ten students in our district who qualify as homeless under the McKinney-Vento Law. These students may be living with a non-custodial person, such as a relative. If they return home anytime throughout the year, they are still considered homeless. The idea of the support is to do whatever it takes to help a student remain in school. Ida Schools received a \$3,700 grant to be used entirely on these students for such things as clothing, gas cards, and school fees.

The Ida Children's Fund, for kindergarten students through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, is managed by Amy Hempel and has its own tax exempt ID. This program is based on need and assists students in a variety of ways such as providing clothing and paying for school activities such as field trips.

### Technology Updates

The elementary school reported that classrooms now have ceiling mounted projectors. There have been no computer upgrades and no computers have been ordered the last two years. In February, they will begin looking at next year's technology goals and determine the priority for purchases..

Numerous problems have been encountered with the copy machines, some the result of poor paper quality. Mr. Heil suggested in the future we look into a write-in clause regarding copier replacement or the option of breaking the lease agreement. A five year lease may be too long. It was suggested in the future that the school look into copiers that are equipped with a three-hole punch and/or are able to staple papers into booklets. Construction paper is very difficult to run through a copy machine. Sending orders to schools with print shops might be an option for teachers needing construction paper copies.

Many of the middle school and high school classrooms also have projectors and Elmos. Transparencies are not necessary in classrooms equipped with an Elmo. Being in a position to not purchase transparencies is an added savings.

Dale Heil asked if there is an equipment maintenance plan in place. Amy Janssen stated that we have a \$5,000 maintenance budget coming out of the technology fund. Phones, wiring, science lab, math lab and computer lab items also come out of this budget. For example, the high school laptops on carts have been upgraded and new batteries installed.

### Pentamation and Pearson Benchmark and Inform

Joan Boyer said the eSchool attendance is working across the district. However, some of the teachers expressed their dissatisfaction with other aspects of the system being cumbersome and not teacher friendly. Even the technology teachers in the district are struggling. Amy LaVigne-Benore asked that everyone be patient while these problems are being taken care of. Dale Heil suggested having either the ISD or a representative from the company come to the school and provide further training and address the problems encountered by the teachers and staff. It was agreed to give it more time before sitting up a training session.

## Parent Group Reports:

### Elementary P.T.A.

The Elementary School parent group has been busy, already holding one of their two fundraisers and making plans for the upcoming school year. The Entertainment Book sale resulted in a profit of \$3,500. Their second fundraiser, Blizzard Book Fair, will be held October 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, the students will be treated to Halloween putt putt golf and a bonfire, for a minimal charge, at Old Town Golf, in Monroe.

The elementary school received an anonymous donation of sports/outdoor equipment to be used on the playground. The PTA group is planning to buy a storage container to house this equipment. It was suggested at the meeting that perhaps the High School Shop class would be willing to build a storage unit if the PTA provided the funds for the building materials.

The ES basketball program is currently up and running.

### Middle School PTO

The Middle School PTO has created a new website with a host of information including fundraisers, upcoming events for the whole family, a visitor page, school calendar, teacher wish list, information for anyone interested in joining the Middle School PTO, and information about their new website - Good Search. By identifying 'Ida Middle School PTO' as the charity group, a penny is raised for each search on this website. For the month of September, the PTO earned \$15.00.

Some of the Middle School fundraisers are Maggie Moo's Dream Cakes, McDonald's coupon booklets, bake sales, and book fairs.

The PTO will also be collecting Nestle bottle labels to help raise funds for the Athletic Booster Club.

Also, two skating parties will be held. Those dates are October 11<sup>th</sup> and April 10<sup>th</sup>, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The cost will be \$5.00 admission, plus, \$2.00 for regular skates or \$3.00 for in-line skates.

### High School

At this time there is no one to head-up the annual high school book fair. While there is not a parent group set up like those in the middle school and elementary school, there are still many parents involved with specific groups such as Band Boosters, Athletics Boosters, and After Prom, while others serve as class advisors.

Next Scheduled Meeting of the Ida Curriculum Council: Wednesday, November 7, 2007

Ida High School Media Center

AM Science Teachers 8:00 - 11:00

PM Curriculum Representatives 12:30 - 3:00