

RICH TOWNSHIP HIGHSCHOOL DISTRICT 227
EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 8, 2008

The Education Committee of the Board of Education of Rich Township High School District 227 met on October 8, 2008, in the District Administrative Center, Olympia Fields, Illinois.

Mrs. Brookins called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Brookins (Chair), Moten (Member), Imoukhuede (Member)

Also Present: Mr. Hunigan, Mr. Hampton, Dr. Leak, Dr. McDonald, Mrs. Cotton-Ramey, Ms. Nettles, Ms. Whitmire, G. Conrad, R. Gladney, Charnise Hutton(student), K. Bickhem, Mr. Jenicek, Mrs. High, Ms. Waite, Mrs. Pickens-Dumas, Akia Parks (Student), Emmanuel McGhee (Student), Mr. Veazey, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Henderson, Mr. Pfau, I. Bowen

Mrs. Brookins turned the meeting over to Dr. Leak for update on the review of Advanced Placement classes and professional development completed for AP instructors.

Advanced Placement Classes and Professional Development –AP Instructors

Dr. Leak Presented AP instructors' Professional Development since March 2008. In addition to the spreadsheet listing the Professional Development, the AP Audit has been completed and is reflected in all AP courses as of this year..

Ms. Brookins: "Does the individual teacher complete the AP training required by the College Board?"

Dr. Leak: "The state board insures that all our teachers get the proper training to teach courses in their subject area. This is done through the Highly Qualified requirements. Neither the State, nor the College Board, requires additional certification to teach AP Courses – only that the teacher holds a valid certificate to teach that subject area. Rich Township District 227 requires teachers to go through the additional level of professional development offered by the College Board. Board members have a copy of the list of advanced placement conferences which includes workshops and Summer Institutes. All of our teachers have completed at least one class and/or a Summer Institute. We use professional growth dollars to fund requests for the Spring and Summer upcoming courses and institutes. Since none of these workshops is free, we do invest money to train our teachers."

Mrs. Moten: "Does the completion of the class come with a certification?"

Dr. Leak: "The state does not require AP teachers to get the training, but the district is requiring that our teachers complete this training. Summer Institutes are offered in places such as Northwestern University in Evanston and Minneapolis."

Mrs. Moten: "Because we are not state mandated, how many kids actually take the exam, and do we have the data on this?"

Dr. Leak: "Last year, when we presented the scores, we didn't have the data yet. But looking ahead, and by our teachers going to the training, we can help our students become successful. We want to meet all the requirements and for everything to be in place."

Dr. Leak explained the data on the handout spreadsheet. 2007 and 2008 dates are explained in the power point presentation. The District's numbers went up by over 100 students engaged in AP courses with an increase of over 70 students taking the tests. Additionally, the average AP score went from a 2.3 in Spring 2007 to a 2.2 in Spring 2008 although we increased the number of students enrolled as well as the number of testers.

Dr. Leak explained in detail the student scores and the changes and increase in AP classes with those who took the test. You can see where the scores went up, and some scores stayed the same. Part of this data summarizes what is working for our students and what is not. This gives us a guide on what we need to work on. We have seen some increase in numbers in the AP classes. Seating for the class is very different from seating when taking the test.

Mrs. Moten: "Looking at some classes, why is it low in Macro?"

Dr. Leak: "Because with Macro AP we don't test until May, but we offer the class in Semester 1 which ends in December. We lose some of the kids because of the time element. There are a variety of other factors that contribute to students not sitting for the test. The test cost \$80.00, so some students opt not to take the test because of the cost, but our numbers are going up in regard to the testing."

Mr. Hunigan: "Are we asking our Principals to look at the data in regard to our overall goals?"

Mrs. Moten: "If we provide development training for teachers, then we should be able to spend the money for the students to take the test."

Dr. Leak: "We are going to sit down and discuss where we could get waivers for students to take the test."

Mrs. Moten: "Have we surveyed the kids in regard to why they didn't take the test? Do we have the data on that?"

Dr. Leak: "We don't have the data yet but some have expressed they didn't take the test for various reasons. We can do a survey this year for taking the test."

Mr. Imoukhuede: “We need to get information on payment for the exams as soon as possible. We should spend some money for the high achievers, so that we can pay for their test.”

Mr. Hunigan: “We will get back to the Board regarding the cost for the district paying for the test.”

Dr. Leak: “We did do tutoring for the AP calculus test.”

Mrs. Brookins: Some of our kids scored in the tail end.”

Dr. Leak: “Some of the students are not in the right sequencing. The Class of 2014, for example, if they start in Algebra 1 Honors next year, they will be in the correct sequencing for taking AP Calculus as seniors. That class will actually be in the right sequencing. The College Board requires 4 years of college math, and AP calculus, which is really a 5th year course.”

Mrs. Brookins: How can we prepare the students so they are in the right sequence?”

Dr. Leak: “It’s not an easy thing to do, but we are working hard to prepare the students on their skills so they are sequenced properly.”

Mrs. Brookins: “Are all the courses standardized across the board in all 3 buildings?”

Dr. Leak: “Yes, all campuses.”

Mr. Imoukhuede: “How many students met with the tutor, and how much time does he spend with the student?”

Dr. Leak: “50 minutes a week.”

Mr. Imoukhuede: “Is that enough?”

Dr. Leak: “That’s about 1 hour of tutoring a week.”

Mr. Imoukhuede: “What can they accomplish in 50 minutes?”

Dr. Leak: “He goes over the skills they need and also their weaknesses. Some students came during their lunch periods.”

Mr. Imoukhuede: “Please review this process and get back to me. At Central you have 24 students they only have 15 minutes each.”

Dr. Leak: “He didn’t have all 24 students at once; sometimes it was only 5 students. And they met with the tutor for 50 minutes – not 15 minutes.”

Mrs. Moten: “Did we actually see if that was adequate time for him to tutor the students?”

Dr. Leak: “What he found out was that our students needed more skill building and couldn’t understand some of the “meat” of lessons.”

Akia Parks Senior at Rich Central:

“I took every class that you mentioned. The tutor that came in was helpful at times but a lot of it wasn’t easy. The concepts were not something that you could wrap your mind around. It should be an explanation on what we do, but there were times it was more than he was able to explain.”

Mr. Imoukhuede: “Sometimes the textbook does not teach you application.”

Mr. Veazey: “Looking at the diagram, we had more students that took the classes than those who took the test. Is this a good an investment for the students? What is the plan, when you have an average that is going down, when it seems it’s not helping the mastery of the test. What is the solution to increasing the mastery of the test?”

Dr. Leak: “We will have more students taking the classes. Also we will be training all our teachers/staff and completing the targeted intervention process, to find out where we need study sessions and additional time and support for our students. It might be beneficial to use our own staff for tutoring.”

Mr. Veazey: “Are all teachers certified?”

Dr. Leak: “All teachers are required to hold the appropriate teaching certificate in order to teach the course within that subject area. Our district also requires that all AP teachers go through the College Board process to be trained.”

Mr. Veazey: “Currently there is no litmus test for the teachers to teach AP classes?”

Dr. Leak: “Teachers must hold the appropriate certificate and go through the AP College Board trainings.”

Mr. Hunigan: “We need to look at the curriculum and what our students need in order to become successful in the AP classes so they won’t be at a disadvantage.”

Mrs. Brookins: “Can we survey the students, so we can better see what happened in the past, tracking them to see where we are making progress, so we know what to focus on and improve?”

Update of Advisory/Mentoring Program - Iman Ellis Bowen

1. Began January 2007, Rich Central taking a closer look at program and tweaking it.
2. Begin looking at the program for 9th Grade because it’s a transition year, it’s very important, both academically and socially.
3. Summarized points outlined in the handouts
4. Positive feedback in observing students who take time out to receive 2 days of training working with Maureen O’Hara and Janet McDaniel.

Students, Charnise Hutton (RE), Akia Parks (RC) and Emmanuel McGhee (RC) gave presentations on their thoughts about being on the Advisory Board

Charnice – Don't let your temper get the best of you. Don't mess up in school, and don't judge one another. Communicate with fellow students and teachers and respect each other. Challenge yourself. Teachers are people too. Challenge them to be goal oriented.

Emmanuel – Set goals, test, classes and college. Talk to others about who is attending college and where. Ask yourself what you need to do to achieve your goals. Help and coach others through their problems.

Akia - I'm excited about having the executive members put this program in the hands of the students, and it's now a team effort. Now students can sign up for tutoring for social issues, and issues at home. We can help students through their disciplinary issues and get them involved in activities and academics and the curriculum. It's a good program if the freshmen buy in to it.

Data on Gender Specific Classes at Rich East

Dr. McDonald, Rachel Gladney, and Traci Toth have been working together at Rich South and Rich Central. Dr. Imoukhuede is the representative for Rich South.

- Mrs. Brenda High is the SECME sponsor for each campus, who will speak to students at each campus during one period during the day. We will cover more about a SECME Advisor at the next board meeting.
- Homecoming, school wide competitions and Ice Cream socials are some of the key components on how to make the curriculum come to life. The mentors will get together regarding what community service they want to participate in, and they go out to the community to help with service. Focus on building the excitement.
- Dr. McDonald plans to survey the students with the leadership team.

Rachel Gladney: "There are ways to engage the freshmen and upperclassmen mentors to have someone to build a relationship with, and they can report what's working and what's not."

Mrs. Brookins: "I attended that gathering for the mentoring, and it was good to see the numbers and they were very professional."

English Curriculum Updates

Kylie Gregor-Whitmire, Gail Conrad, Kara Bickhem

- College readiness standards, curriculum
- Differentiated Instruction

Education Committee Meeting

Page 6

10/8/08

- Reading Across the Curriculum
- Summer Curriculum Alignment
- Common Assessments
- Future Goals

There are very limited amount of novels to read at a one time; this sometimes becomes a problem. English curriculum is district wide. We have a complete shifting of thinking and great expectations skill-based curriculum which is connected to other classes. Skill focus helps new teachers to focus on delivery. There are some gender specific courses for male students. Using tools like newspapers (sports section) to engage our male students so they can connect. Real world reading is non-fiction reading, and this helps. We are in the process of collecting more data and recessing everything to see if gender specifics are successful. It will take time for the program to work and grow. Right now it's starting with a good foundation, but we will be tracking freshmen. We still have to look at discipline, tardiness, and suspensions, etc. We will have more information in our November presentation.

Meeting Adjourned 7:56 pm