RICH TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 227

EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 12, 2008

The Education Committee of the Board of Education of Rich Township High School District 227 met on May 12, 2008, in the District Administrative Center, Olympia Fields, Illinois.

Mrs. Brookins called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

Also Present: Mrs. Owens, Mr. Hunigan, Dr. Leak, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Treichel, Dr. Craig, Mr. Joyce, Ms. Conrad, Ms. Shelton, Ms. Nelson, Ms. Birts, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Theobald, Ms. Pawluk, Ms. Ware, Ms. Jones, Ms. Carter, Ms. Thomas, Ms. High, Mr. Jones, Ms. Cotton-Ramey, Ms. Waite, Ms. Stovall Henderson, Dr. Imoukhuede, Mr. Speller, Ms. Smith, Dr. Kirkwood, Mr. Veazey, Ms. Lonie, Mr. King, Mr. Curran

Mrs. Brookins turned the meeting over to Dr. Leak, who went through the agenda for the evening. Dr. Leak then turned the meeting over to Dr. Craig, who spoke about the advisory periods in the schools. He noted that the advisories are a work in progress. Dr. Craig went over the following topics related to advisories:

1. The Purpose of Advisory
2. The Objectives of Advisory
3. The Different Foci of Advisory
4. Advisory Program Weekly Schedule
5. Accomplishments
6. Social Emotional Learning Standards
7. Why Teach Social Emotional Learning?
8. Advisory Mentor Survey
9. Advisory Teacher Survey
10. Advisory Student Survey
11. Current Tasks for Summer Work

Questions were asked from the committee members. Dr. Craig noted that Dr. McDonald will be the point person at the District level for the advisories.

Mr. Imoukhuede noted that the weaknesses of the program need to be strengthened for next year.

Dr. Imoukhuede (South), Ms. Birts (East), and Mr. Jones (Central) went over what took place in the Freshman Academy for the 2007-2008 school year and the plans for the Freshman Academy for next year.

Mrs. Moten questioned the Freshman Academy plans for next year. Dr. Bridget Imoukhuede responded that this was a pilot program for 2007-2008, and next year the program will be improved.

Mr. Imoukhuede added that he hoped the District is consistent in the direction it is going.

Ms. Birts, Mr. Jones and Ms. Nelson talked about changes for a positive school climate.

Mrs. Brookins wanted to make sure the School Climate Committee included classified staff members.

Mrs. Nelson responded that it does. The School Climate Committee had only met once this past year. Next year, the committee wants to meet on a quarterly basis.

Ms. Nelson talked about the following items regarding a positive climate for Rich South:

1. Climate Surveys
2. Monthly Recognition of Staff/Teachers
3. Student of the Month; STARS for Life
4. Updated Visitor Sign-in Procedure
5. Regularly Scheduled Locker Clean-Outs
6. Expanded Peer Mediation Program
7. Student Support Committee Meetings
8. Attendance Office Use
9. PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Systems) Incentives
10. Student Forums
11. Staff Climate Committee/School Climate Committee
12. Mentoring Groups
13. Student Recognition – Banquets
14. Community Police/Security Meetings
15. PSAE Mentoring Program
16. Increased Building Communication

Ms. Birts discussed the following items regarding positive climate changes for Rich East:

1. Increase administrative monitoring of staff supervision in the hallways
2. Mandatory “Creating Positive Relations/De-escalation Training for All Staff”

3. Increase Communication with the Staff
4. Conduct Small Groups
5. Establish Intervention Program
6. Alternative to OSS Suspension with a Curriculum for De-Escalation, making Positive Choices
7. Alternative Ways of Using In-School Suspension
8. Alternative Placement Opportunities
9. Increase Capacity
10. Mandatory and Continuous Training for All Police Lisisons
11. Attendance Office
12. Develop School Climate Committee
13. Students' Incentive Program
14. Maintaining a Positive Outreach Program

Mr. Jones, from Rich Central, outlined the following Changes for a Positive School Climate for Rich Central.

1. Mentoring Program for Girls and Boys
2. Extensive Freshman Orientation Re: Freshman Academy Program Plans and Expectations
3. Parent/Student Surveys at the Beginning of the 08-09 Year Re: Expectations, Responsibilities, Community/Parent Relations, PTSO
4. Comprehensive Discipline Program Goals: Reduction of Tardies, Absences, Suspensions, and Expulsions
5. Review and Possible Restructuring of Advisory Periods for Teachers and Students
6. High Levels of Student Participation, Peer Mentoring and Mediators

Mr. Imoukhuede noted that the schools need to get the parents involved. They are placing the burden on the teachers.

Mrs. Brookins asked about advisories – if the curriculum was the same at each building.

Dr. Leak responded that there is actual curriculum is for freshmen – juniors. The District Committee establishes the curriculum and the Building Committee implements the curriculum.

Mr. Imoukhuede questioned when parents are informed about the PSAE.

Dr. Leak answered that they are informed at the beginning of the junior year, but really awareness all along beginning as freshmen.

Mr. Hunigan asked to pull the attendance component of the climate report from the Education Committee agenda. He noted the District was bringing in a consultant from PowerSchool to check out the attendance data on PowerSchool. Average daily attendance is a major problem with PowerSchool. This information should be available by June or July.

Ms. Nelson, Mr. Jones and Ms. Birts went over the out-of-school suspension data for each school.

Ms. Brookins said she would like to see data from each school on why students are suspended – is there consistency at each school?

Dr. Leak said she will talk to Mr. Koutavas regarding gathering this data from PowerSchool.

Mrs. Moten asked when the deans meet together.

Ms. Nelson responded that they meet together on School Improvement Days.

Senior Activities at each campus were highlighted.

Mrs. Brookins asked about restructuring the last two weeks of school.

Dr. Leak responded that the last day for seniors is May 13. The administration will work with the Calendar Committee regarding the end of the school year in the future.

Ms. Lett-Hill noted that most schools have 6 -8 days from the seniors last day until graduation.

The Associate Principals from Rich South, Rich East and Rich Central went over some of the questions addressed on the Senior Exit Survey.

Dr. Leak added that it was the first year for collecting all this data from the seniors.

Mrs. Brookins asked if the survey spoke to the need for Vocational Education.

Dr. Leak responded that there are two other surveys which are administered. In several places, the surveys ask about Vocational Education.

Mrs. Birts added that the District is working on putting the survey on line for next year.

Mr. Imoukhuede noted that these questions should be addressed to the Superintendent.

Mrs. Brookins asked what is done for seniors that is special.

Ms. Ellis-Bowen noted that seniors receive special parking privileges and a senior café. Hopefully, the café will have couches and a television next year. They also receive a double lunch period.

Dr. Leak noted that the remaining items on the Education Committee agenda – Vocational Education, Alternative Education, SECME – will be brought back to the next meeting.

At 8:05 p.m. the Education Committee meeting was adjourned.

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Chairperson