

Middle School Site Leadership Team Minutes

December 6th, 2007

In Attendance:

- Jerry Meschke (Administration), Jodi Phillips (6th Grade), Eric Wahl (7th Grade), Kit Glasow (Parent), Kathy Zwonitzer (7th Grade), Romona Bridges (8th Grade), Sara Florin (8th Grade), Kari Bornhoft (Parent), Sue Kurak (Parent), Lori Harjamaki (Parent), Becky Benson (Parent), Cindy Hinman (Activities Director), Missy Wilhelm (6,7,8 Grade), Jodi Phillips (6th Grade), Tim Hodges (Administration), Melinda Goedeke (7th Grade), Trish Olsen (Parent), Deb Griffiths (Parent)

Approval of Minutes - November 8th, 2007

Activities Update

- Cindy Hinman, Activities Director, reviewed what is happening with student activities. We are now into the second season of activities with a number of students signed up for a variety of experiences. So far 1,187 students have signed up for at least one activity since the beginning of the school year. Communicating these activities to students and parents was discussed at length, with most emphasis placed on getting information to 6th grade students. Various solutions were presented to improve awareness to the students. Parents are urged to contact Mrs. Hinman if they have ideas or questions about the operation of the activities program.

Enrollment Update

- Enrollment projections for next year were shared with the site leadership team. If student numbers remain constant the total enrollment in the middle school will decline by 45 students next year. This decline will require the middle school to reduce staff and reorganize teams in the 7th grade with four teams of teachers formed with Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies offered all year.
- Questions were raised about 6th grade Music offered every other day, and what opportunities can be added for students on the opposite non-Music day. Teams are using the flex period to help students with skills that may be missing or to enhance other concepts. Some concern was voiced about students who are not struggling academically and if other alternatives could be developed. It was noted teachers continue to experiment with various ideas that benefit students and are open to trying new approaches as they become more use to this extended time.

Advanced Placement Grant

- Centennial School District was informed that the Minnesota Department of Education intends to fund an Advanced Placement Project in the amount of \$194,069. According to the application summary, the project goals for the Advanced Placement Program are as follows: (1) expand the scope of advanced placement offerings (focus on science, technology, and mathematics-related disciplines), (2) increase the number of students receiving a score of three or better on advanced placement examinations, (3) provide advanced learning opportunities for students in grades 6-10 through the creation of pre-advanced placement courses, (4) increase over-all enrollment of students in rigorous academic programs (pre-advanced placement/advanced placement courses), (5) increase participation in pre-advanced placement courses by students of cultural or ethnic diversity, disadvantaged, and low-income families, and (6) raise the over-all academic performance of students.
- An Advanced Placement Advisory Council will be formed to oversee the project's goals and to discuss where needs for staff development may be appropriate. The grant's focus will be primarily in science, but will encompass other disciplines in both the middle school and high school. How advanced opportunities will be addressed in the middle school is another topic the council may discuss.

Sally Ride Partnership

- Centennial Middle School was one of 12 schools selected by the Department of Education to receive supplemental science curriculum encouraging students to consider career possibilities in science. This pilot program will involve training for our science staff and materials to engage students in activities that support the Minnesota Science Standards.

Grade Study Committee

- A district-wide committee is studying various aspects of how students are assessed in our schools with the goal to develop the following outcomes: 1) Identify our district philosophy with regard to grading, 2) examine the purpose of grades, 3) examine the components of a grade, and 4) explore the merits and unintended consequences of weighted grades.
- This committee has broad representation from parents, staff and district administration and will meet throughout the school year.

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 10th, 2008, 2:30 p.m. - R115