

Plattsburgh City School District

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District-wide Educational Improvement Council (DWEIC) Minutes of the December 17, 2012 Meeting Duken Conference Room – 3:15 p.m.

Present: Gilles Fortin (Momot Principal), Glenn Hurlock (PHS Principal), Mary Lou LaRocque-Megarr (Teachers' Association President), Thomas Via (Teachers' Association Vice President), Mary Fortin (Momot Teacher), Kevin Champagne (PHS Teacher), Susan Levaque (PHS Teacher), Lori Schudde (CSEA), Margarita Garcia-Notario, (PHS Parent), James Short (Superintendent of Schools).

Absent: Patricia Amo (SMS Principal), Kathy Meyer (SMS Teacher), Danielle Seem (SMS Parent), Rebecca Coryea (Bailey Parent), Jessica Mitchell-Briehl (Momot Parent), Karolyn Micheels (Oak Street Parent), Clay Morris (Board of Education) and Steve Krieg (Board of Education), Katelyn Stetz (PHS Student), and Schuler Barrier (PHS Student).

Minutes: The meeting started at 3:25 p.m. and the committee reviewed and approved the October 29, 2012 minutes.

Facilitator Selection and Committee Membership: Mr. Short introduced Margarita Garcia-Notario as the SMS/PHS parent representative. Mr. Short reviewed membership updates announcing Lori Schudde will be this year's facilitator.

Computer-Based Instruction: Mr. Hurlock and Mrs. Levaque discussed a variety of concepts around the topic of computer-based learning opportunities for students. The trend in this area is growing rapidly. For example, in 1993 about 12% of all post-secondary students had been involved in CBI and by 2010 it had grown to 30%. The university trend is reaching to 100% of students having some experience with an on-line course – more and more colleges are setting it as an expectation. This includes institutions ranging from community colleges to Ivy League schools. In addition, the breadth of courses available is impressive. Mrs. Lavaque provided further reference to Coursera, a free on-line university as another example of how far this field has advanced.

On-line courses offer a number of advantages to students such as; customized courses, high interest specialty classes, and flexible schedules for students with different needs. It is recognized that not every student may find success or be capable with the on-line environment, but we would better prepare students by making this option available.

Clinton Community College has a standing offer to provide free training to any CAP instructor for on-line courses. Mrs. Garcia-Notario explained her experiences using on-line courses and hybrid on-line/classroom settings as she utilizes both while instructing Foreign Language at SUNY Plattsburgh. She readily spoke to all of the same advantages but also pointed out the large amount of work the instructor becomes involved in.

Wrapping up the discussion, we thought it may be best to start slowly, offer a course in the fall and monitor its progress. It was further recognized that a recent Commissioner of Education ruling was handed down against a school for participating in a cooperative on-line venture. One of the main reasons was that the teachers involved were not NYS certified, thus NYS credit could not be awarded. The model involving Clinton Community College's training of local teachers would not be subject to this ruling – they are already NYS certified.

District Public Forums:

Mr. Short explained the trend that developed a new web-based FAQ for community Members. He explained how to use the links to post questions and the philosophy behind the decision to use this format as compared to periodic forums. The committee was pleased with this approach and is interested to know how it develops over time.

– MISSION –

Our mission is to educate each student of the Plattsburgh City School District by creating challenging, supportive, and interactive learning that advances intellectual, physical, social, and cultural development.

Site-based Shared-Decision Making Training:

Mrs. Megarr shared with the group that Carolyn Williams, NYSUT – who is highly involved with the Innovation Fund that helped jumpstart our district’s APPR process and development of a PAR program – has offered free consensus for building and team building training. We thought this may be good for just about anyone in the district as we always are seeking ways to promote partnerships and working collaboratively. Our first focus was on providing training for School Improvement Teams this spring.

School Safety:

In light of the recent tragedy at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut, we touched briefly on the reactions that took place in our schools. People were very quick to recognize that it is impossible to completely stop a maniacal person from getting into a school building. However, basic safety measures are being re-cultivated as this event stood as a reminder that we should be thinking safety every day.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting: Items to be listed on the next agenda are:

- Mid-Year Review of School Improvement Planning Teams’ Goals
- Any Further Updates/Developments on Computer-Based Learning
- Update on the Annual Professional Performance Review for Teachers and Principals
- Update on the Gates Foundation grant and developments affecting the Professional Improvement Committee

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

..... **2012/2013 Meeting Dates**

(3:15 p.m. on the last Monday of the month except* when school is not in session)

~~September 24, 2012~~

February 25, 2013

~~October 29, 2012~~

March 25, 2013

~~November 26, 2012~~

April 29, 2013

~~December 17, 2012*~~

May 20, 2013*

January 28, 2013

June 17, 2013*