

MINUTES OF THE  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
of the Board of Education  
Riverside School District No. 96  
held on Tuesday, October 21, 2008  
in the Hollywood Elementary School Gymnasium  
Brookfield, Illinois

Education Committee Chair Nancy Jensen called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m.

Present: Mrs. Nancy Jensen and Mrs. Linda Bade  
Absent: Mr. Richard Volpe and Mrs. Hareena Wakely  
Also Present: Dr. Jon Lamberson, Superintendent; Board member James Schraidt; principals Colleen Lieggi, Bob Chleboun, Janice Limperis, and Leslie Berman; special education director, Mary Polk; technology director, Vern Bettis; staff members Mindy Keller, Janice Johnson and Judy Sayre.

There were no reports or comments from delegations or individuals.

2008-09 District Goals and Mission Deliverables

Dr. Janice Limperis, Central School principal and Director of Instructional Systems reviewed with the members of the Education Committee the details of the proposed district goals for 2008-09. This year the focus will be on a new writing initiative in collaboration with writing specialist Regie Routman and her program Writing Essentials. The new program will be piloted in 2008-09 and fully implemented in 2009-10.

This is the second year that the district is using the Scott Foresman series for social studies. After feedback and discussion at grade level and committee meetings, some changes were made to the curriculum content guide with consideration given to time and pacing of the units. Teaching strategies, lesson plan guides and supplemental resources are available via [sfsocialstudies.com](http://sfsocialstudies.com).

The Curriculum Mapping cadre has received training in this process as part of the social studies curriculum review and adoption in May 2007. The "mapping" of a K-8 curriculum in a specific subject area is used to eliminate duplication of topics being studied at several grade levels and to ensure a comprehensive, consistent continuum of curriculum goals and outcomes throughout the district. The cadre will be working on the mapping process for the writing curriculum in 2008-09.

Mindy Keller, Central kindergarten teacher and administrative intern is serving as the program coordinator for the new transitional kindergarten program called K.I.T.E. - Kindergarteners Improving Toward Excellence. The program was initiated this year for students identified as needing additional support in acquiring early literacy and math skills. All kindergarteners were assessed at the beginning of the school year and based on these results, 32 students qualified for participation in the program. Of those 32, parents of 29 students accepted the invitation to be in the program. Transitional classes are held

two days per week in each of the four elementary schools. As part of the program's curriculum, a new early elementary program is being piloted this year called "Handwriting Without Tears" that teaches the basic skills of making shapes and letters, etc. to help students who may not have had the benefit of any pre-school experience prior to entering kindergarten.

Dr. Limperis reviewed the draft of Central School's statement of Civility and Courtesy Guidelines for students, staff and visitors. Goal #1 states that the district will show evidence of "best practice" standards of civility and courtesy. Each school is working on a statement or guidelines of civility with regard to communication, desirable behaviors, and unacceptable acts of disrespect and affirm/stress positive behaviors. These statements will be discussed further by the District Leadership Team (DLT) and staff before final statements are adopted for implementation.

Technology director Vern Bettis reported on the National Educational Technology Standards written to facilitate and inspire students learning and creativity through technology. He also talked about a new opportunity for staff to receive a free iPod and 15 hours of staff development. Mr. Bettis also noted additional resources now available to staff online including *Book Club*, *Teachers' Cookie Exchange*, *Make It & Take It*, *Digital Storytelling*, *Apple 1 to 1*, *Apple Learning Interchange*, and *Apple Media Services* among others. This year additional laptop carts are available as well as lab space at Hauser.

Blythe Park principal Bob Chleboun gave an overview of the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment program now in its second year of use in District 96. The staff has expressed positive comments regarding the assessment data now available to them in planning for their students' success in learning and achievement.

Mr. Chleboun described information he obtained from the Northwest Evaluation Association regarding student goal setting in preparation for the introduction of student/parent/teacher conferences. The process would include a goal setting session with the classroom teacher and could be based on test scores. The desired outcome would result in benefiting the student, parent, teacher and school. The teachers would introduce the idea of goal setting, i.e., what is a goal, purpose, outcome, etc. Each student would set one area to focus on for improvement (MAP scores or other source, academic or non-academic), decide what the goal will be, how they will go about achieving that goal, and what results they would expect to see. This exercise would then become part of the student/parent/teacher conference discussion to give the student ownership and responsibility for his/her own learning and work on ways to improve.

Hauser Junior High principal Leslie Berman reported on the opening of the new school year with the addition of 30+ new students bringing their enrollment up to 485 students in grades 6-8. They have welcomed three new teachers, two to fill vacancies and one additional FTE because of enrollment. The staff continues to model the middle school philosophy and scheduling, using collaborative teams for planning and teaching. *PowerSchool* has proven to be a successful tool for staff and parents with the introduction of the parent portal this year. With the use of a protected password, parents can now access student work and scores for their own oversight as well as meaningful communication with the teachers. *GradeBook* software has also been introduced this

year for ease in record keeping. Ms. Berman noted that she has received nothing but positive feedback from the parents on the availability of *PowerSchool* data.

Supt. Lamberson reported that the District's current policies have not undergone a comprehensive review for many years and it is recommended that this be done at least every 5 to 10 years. One of the goals for 2008-09 is to have the policies accessible online and to upgrade and improve the District 96 website.

He noted that Board policy updating and customization services are available through the Illinois Association of School Boards and he has been in contact with them for additional information. After a meeting with the IASB representative which included Board members Nancy Jensen and Hareena Wakely and Vern Bettis, it was recommended that an agreement be reached between District 96 and IASB to review and customize current policies to include the most recent legislative mandates for school districts in Illinois. A first draft is expected before the end of November 2008 with opportunity for revisions and/or deletions. It is anticipated that the Board will approve the final document in April 2009.

Ames principal Colleen Lieggi gave a brief overview of the new "5 for 4" Plan for students to be implemented in 2009-10. In today's world, the use of technology is a necessary tool for student success. The "5 for 4" Plan will provide each 5th grade student with a laptop computer for their exclusive use through 8<sup>th</sup> grade if they continue their education in District 96. The computers will be purchased using outside funding sources. The "5 for 4" planning committee members are Vern Bettis, Janice Limperis, Colleen Lieggi, and Mindy Keller. The committee will be meeting to appoint a project manager and members of a tactical team. Their goal is to develop a vision for the project by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester and possibly pilot the plan in one school in the spring.

Dr. Mary Polk reviewed the Response to Intervention program which by definition is "the practice of providing high-quality instruction/intervention matched to student needs and using learning rate over time and level of performance to inform education decisions. Its core principles include the following: *teach all children effectively; intervene early; use a multi-tier model of service delivery; and adopt a problem-solving methodology.*

RTI utilizes proven materials and research-based methods to provide supplemental, intensive early intervention to address academic or social/emotional issues as soon as they become evident. Student progress is continually monitored by means of assessment and screening with data driven decisions regarding differentiation of instruction. In the end, by using the practice of early intervention the number of student referrals for special education classes is reduced. This will ultimately change the way we work with special education students by offering an array of flexible services to meet their needs. The District's plan needs to be adopted and submitted to the ISBE by January 2009 for implementation in 2009-10.

Blythe Park principal and TPI/ESL coordinator Bob Chleboun reported on the status of the district's TPI (Transitional Program of Instruction) for students whose first language is not English. In 2007-08, 38 students were being served by one full time teacher in the district. A 0.45 FTE TPI teacher (Elena Enstrom) was hired in the second semester to ease the case load for Helina Pliwko and provide more instructional time for students in the program. This year there are 51 students in the program and Elena Enstrom's

schedule has been increased to 0.71 FTE. Students generally stay in the program for a year or more based on progress and their ability to perform in the classroom. Mr. Chleboun noted that it is anticipated that the ISAT tests will be available in Spanish in 2010.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mrs. Bade and supported by Mrs. Jensen. The time was 7:20 p.m.

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Judith Novak, Board Secretary

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Nancy Jensen, Committee Chair