

3/10/16

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

Present: E. Bonnie Silvers, chair; Kristen Sparhawk; Marcella Bush

Absent: Fran Lartigue

Administration present: Dave Hastings and Chris Thompson

The minutes of 2\_11\_16 were approved unanimously.

The chair hearing no objections changed the order of the items on the agenda.

### **Update on Evaluation Form:**

Mr. Thompson gave the committee a short tutorial on how it would be possible to use the DESE form in its Word form. The form still needs to have Mr. Hastings agreed upon goals typed into it. Ms. Silvers agreed to draft the wording of this and Ms. Sparhawk agreed to make sure it got into the form properly.

### **Progress of Superintendent's Priorities**

(Concerning Superintendent priority 1e) Mr. Hastings presented a list of students developed by guidance who might benefit from vocational or internship experiences. He admitted to be rather taken aback by the number of names on the list, but stated that guidance did not only consider students that might have an interest in traditionally vocational trades but also those in technology. They had made an appointment with Covestro about possibly training kids for technician positions. They also receive a list of internships from the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Hastings stated that there was not currently a certified technology teacher, though Mr. Thompson did hold the requisite certification. Ms. Sparhawk thought another teacher in the school might also hold the certification and encouraged Mr. Hastings to look into that.

Ms. Silvers inquired how the Culinary Arts Program was using the career exploration software it had bought.

There was the suggestion that maybe Berkshire Community College could offer a course in entrepreneurship to interested students at our campus.

Mr. Hastings explained they had been close to managing a BCC relationship, but this past year scheduling had fallen through. Ms. Sparhawk wondered that if the schedule were being re-examined in a quest to provide students with study hall as the students had been advocating, maybe within that space a regular time for a BCC course could be placed. It could also be an opportunity to align schedules so that BHRSD and SBRSD might better share services. Mr. Hastings noted that it seemed unlikely the study hall could be scheduled while still adhering to state direct instruction hour mandates.

(Concerning priority 1b) A tangential conversation concerning the advisory schedule led to a discussion about how the advisory time is used. Mr. Hastings stated that some incidents had recently arisen that were very serious concerning racial issues. He could not go into detail due to confidentiality restrictions but indicated that Mr. Devoti was planning an assembly and Mr. Hastings had scheduled a meeting with Gwen Van Sant of Multicultural Bridge to get advice on addressing the issue of diversity.

(Concerning priority 1a) – Mr. Hastings stated he had no specific evidence to bring up, but he was concerned about the opt-out movement being organized by one of the parents at new Marlborough school. He knew of another district who descended to Level 3 status despite being on a trial PARCC year when they thought they would be held harmless for poor results, due to too many students not taking the test. He said he feared if the movement gained too much traction especially at New Marlborough the state would step in and take away all the things the parents of New Marlborough hold dear and have fought for (i.e. the ski program and Flying Cloud)

### **District brochure:**

Two version of a school brochure were given to the committee to consider. It was generally agreed the superintendent should try to ask for help from MS. Giordano concerning what she thought it most important to include in the brochure and how best to present it.

### **Business Office**

Mr. Hastings presented the job descriptions for the business manager from both SBRSD and BHRSD. He said that other than the format, and the requirements for the position, both the jobs descriptions looked mostly identical.

### **Evaluation of Staff Members by Superintendent**

Ms. Silvers asked how other non-unit administrators are evaluated and how records are kept. Mr. Hastings stated they had annual reviews and reports were filed. Ms. Silvers stressed that there needed to be a consistent pattern at every level and there must be a good trail of documentation.

### **Dave's Bucket List**

Mr. Hastings was asked if there were two or three things he would like to see achieved as part of his legacy? Mr. Hastings stated he would like to see Berkshire community College make a permanent presence in the building. He also was in favor of institutionalizing the co-teaching model in which special education teachers are on equal footing with classroom teachers both in control of the classroom and in making lesson plans. He admitted he was getting some pushback from classroom teachers in this.

Mr. Hastings noted all the money being donated by community members and felt that was a result of all his efforts at community relations.

Through this discussion, Ms. Silvers stated that she would also love to see MCLA come down to offer classes for teachers.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:00.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.