

Willard High School

Steering Committee Minutes

April 26, 2006



Members present:

Staff (if not shaded in):

Mary Ellen Butler (chair)	Chris Church	Lynn Crandall
Shannon Cuff	Emm Foster	John Hartley
Nancy Ipock	Sandy Kremers	George Lindsay
Susan Marcum	Susan Parrish	John Presley
Jay Roth (chair)	Judy Scroggs	Melissa Troxell
Don Tuck	Jolene Welsh	Phil Wickwar

Students:

Parents & BOE* Member: Ron Crighton*

Also present: Diane Crain, Marcella Schnakenberg, Kate Spangler

Since there were no new or follow-up items on the agenda, members each summarized what their ALC teams are working on.

- Chris's team has been talking about grading issues and how we will be affected when all parents have access to grades through SIS. One issue is how often grades will be updated.
- Judy's team has been discussing the Intervention Program.
- George explained the assessment tool they are creating to see whether or not science students are assessing scientific media successfully. Their hope is that it will also reinforce general reading skills.
- Diane's team is discussing parental involvement. They have also tallied the results of the TNT survey.
- Phil's group has been discussing the Intervention Program. They tend to think it should start as a small, pilot group instead of school-wide. There was a question about a small group being viewed as a 'select' group instead of a pilot program. Chris mentioned starting a program within band using peer tutors. Don suggested piloting the program with all freshmen rather than members of a specific activity. Susan suggested starting with the group of students with the highest needs. Lynn mentioned having a set time for all team members to study, maybe with peer tutoring within each sport or with A+ students or with other teachers. Phil said the drawback to having everyone study at a set time is that there is not a separate consequence for those with low grades. Phil would like additional feedback from ALC teams.
- Susan Marcum said that she, Jay and Emm attended a meeting in Republic about the possibility of using the ACT state-wide as a replacement for the MAP test. If it is put in place each school would have to pay for all juniors to take the ACT once. Retakes would be paid for by students. The ACT test would be for math and communications arts. However, the MAP would still be used for science and the additional writing component. Approximately 1.5 million more will be required for funding the ACT state-wide. Since students understand that ACT scores are tied to college admission, maybe they would be more motivated to achieve. But, since students going to OTC are not required to take the ACT, that might not motivate some.
- Marcella's team has been working on curriculum and handbook changes. As of now, all policies are the same. ALC teams are to review the handbook and send any suggestions to Scott Cook.

The Steering Committee does not make decisions; we guide the staff in order to reach a consensus.

- John's team has been comparing textbooks for the upcoming adoption. Chris mentioned that the classes are growing in size and that the current textbook budget may not be sufficient because of the larger class sizes. Jolene said that the incoming freshman class has 303 students and that we have enrolled 1110 students for next year.
- Susan's team has also been working on textbook adoption and budgets. She also expressed a concern about teachers showing students their grades for all their classes before the grades have been distributed to students. In order to avoid possible misunderstandings, the teacher of that class should show students the grades.
- Jay mentioned his students' participation in the math relays. The math team has been meeting in groups of common classes to analyze test data and determine the validity of the test questions.
- Melissa's group has been working on common assessments. Kate has been writing a critical thinking assessment. There is the possibility of piloting a program to help students learn reading strategies.
- Susan recognized the awards that foreign language students received at a recent competition.
- Judy questioned how a student who has missed 58 days can still be getting a good grade in some classes.
- Don said that 4 teaching vacancies have been filled and that the board is offering one more contract.
- Melissa explained that NHS is collecting memorabilia from this year's seniors (as the last senior class in the building) that will be put in a display case. Send her any additional memorabilia or photos.
- Jay explained his experience using the new field trip form. The form says that if a teacher is absent and can't sign the form, the student should go to the office. There was some confusion and the student was sent back to the teacher. If students are given the form a week ahead, they should be able to get the required signatures. There was also a question as to whether a student with a failing grade was automatically disqualified. It was determined that it is the teacher's discretion.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55

Next meeting May 10

Submitted by Nancy Ipock