

Willard High School

Steering Committee Minutes

January 10, 2007



Members present:

Staff (if not shaded in):

Students:

Mary Ellen Butler (co-chair)	Chris Church	Lynn Crandall (co-chair)
Jim Davis	Travis Evans	Emm Foster
Nancy Ipock	George Lindsay	
Susan Marcum	Susan Parrish	John Presley
Jay Roth	Judy Scroggs	Marcella Schnakenberg
Melissa Troxell	Jolene Welsh	

Parents & BOE* Member: Ron Crighton*

Also present: Cathy Bolek, Diane Crain, Don Tuck, Phil Wickwar

At Risk / RTA Students

- Cathy provided a handout that summarizes the input she received about the at-risk students and RTA. There seems to be a gap between the services provided for these students in Middle School and in High School. It seems that the High School alternative school is primarily set up to help students recover lost credits rather than helping them learn skills to become independent and successful in the real world.
- Susan Marcum said that, according to the survey, only a little over one percent of the students perceive that their grades are at the D level or below.
- Most of the *Success* students from Middle School are not successful in the High School setting. Cathy estimated that only 2 students are currently successful.
- Several ideas of things we could do to help these students were presented. They included ideas such as testing 8th grade students to see what their reading level is and requiring those that are far below grade level to take a reading class in addition to English.
- Melissa shared an article from *Time* magazine about how and why schools need to move out of the 20th century to make learning relevant to students.
- Cathy asked the teams to prioritize and/or add ideas to the list of problems and possible interventions that she distributed. That input should be emailed to Cathy.

Weighted classes

- Weighted classes were also discussed. Cathy presented the feedback she had received. It was suggested that we should collect data from other COC schools to see which ones have weighted classes. Currently, we have no policy that explains how to determine whether or not a class should be designated as a weighted class. The state department produces a list of advanced courses. One question was about whether or not weighted courses should only be in the core areas. There was discussion about dual enrollment courses. Some of those are not in core areas. Chris will ask his group if they are willing to research the topic of weighted classes.

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

Facilitator Input

- Marcella's group is researching transportation costs/costs of field trips etc. and seeing how others schools access charges.
- Melissa explained that her group is continuing to work with the Missouri Reading Initiative.
- John said that the history team is working on curriculum for American and World History as well as common assessments
- Susan said that foreign language worked on the semester schedule and is now working on common assessments as well as trying to find ways to fund a foreign language lab.
- Lynn said that the science teachers have been working on common assessments as well as looking at the numbers of failures in the sophomore classes and trying to find strategies that will help those students be more successful.
- Chris said that the fine arts group has been trying to see if we actually prepare our students well or success in college
- Phil explained that their group has been working on curriculum as well as ways to serve more students and help the student body to become healthier.
- Judy said that the special services teachers have been working on a transition fair. Phil expressed his appreciation for all the things Laurie Stonebarger does with her classes. It was also mentioned that she is always making things and might appreciate supplies that we have no use for, i.e fabric, yarn, cooking supplies, etc.
- Susan Marcum reminded everyone that the state supervisor will be here on January 24. He will check documentation at the central office in the morning and tour buildings in the afternoon.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50
Minutes submitted by Nancy Ipock