

Willard High School

Steering Committee Minutes

February 14, 2017



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, Pam Burrell

Also present: Don Tuck, Cathy Bolek, Ann Branstetter

- Cathy provided a handout summarizing the feedback she has received about the “at-risk” students. Counselors are continuing to look at the feedback. There were several questions, for example: Should teachers be told which students are being served in which programs? Would that allow teachers to provide the extra help that those students might need or would it predetermine the teachers’ perspective of the students’ capabilities? At this point, the counseling department has a list of students but has chosen not to send it to all teachers to try to avoid labeling and biases.
- There were ideas about how to insure that students are enrolled in the correct classes. The English department may create a test to determine if students are enrolled correctly, for example, not in an honors course if they are not ready for the workload. Lincolnshire does give a test in math at the end of the year to place students correctly for the upcoming year. Students may retake the test during the summer in order to go to a higher level.
- Other comments about placement included that the science and math departments feel that their placement of students has been more appropriate. English I next year will be a full-year, not divided by semester. The MRI instruction may help.
- Some other suggestions were: Have a “freshmen only” lunch period. Have a “freshmen only” first day of school.
- Pam mentioned the success of a mandatory evening event at the end of 5th grade here at Willard. The administrators talked to both parents and students about the transition into Middle School and how important it was. She felt like it was a successful event and that something similar might be done during the transition to High School.
- Counselors will continue to study the issue and report to the committee. They will be investigating total transition and mentoring ideas. Give them names of anyone interested in helping.
- Chris discussed the research they have done about weighted classes. They are surveying COC schools, Springfield schools and other Missouri schools of a similar size. So far, of the 17 responses, 12 schools do have weighted classes and 5 do not. Some of the questions are: Which classes are weighted? What

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

are the criteria for weighting a class? How much extra does the weighted class carry? They have learned various things. For example: Some schools only weight junior and senior classes. Some schools give students a grade for the state-mandated tests. Some schools have a set percentage for mid-term and final tests. Their group will continue to gather information.

- Cathy provided information that the counselors just received about upcoming changes in the college prep certificate for graduates in the year 2010. Students will be required to have 4 math credits and 95% attendance, among other things.
- Susan Parrish asked for confirmation that there is still an interest in pursuing the Laude curriculum and explained that, so far, we have not received new information.
- Melissa talked about the MRI program and explained that the strategies can be used with what we already teach and that it should not be seen as something extra to do. Teachers are reporting success after implementing some of the new techniques. Melissa will make copies of the notebook available to all departments.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30
Minutes submitted by Nancy Ipock