

Willard High School

Steering Committee Minutes

February 28, 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:

Also present: Phil Wickwar, Cathy Bolek

- Cathy provided a handout listing various things that the Advisement Center has been working on. She explained that the counselors were originally included in other groups, but that they are now their own group and it has been difficult deciding who else should be in the group: social worker, SRO, nurse, etc. Many issues overlap but not all. Now that the counselors follow one class through all grade levels, the counselors each need to be familiar with all phases of the students' 4-year plan whereas before they were specialists in their specific grade level requirements.
- There was a question about how the new requirement of a 3rd year of science will change the success rate of students. Will the failure rate increase when students who would not have taken a 3rd year of science by choice are required to take it?
- Phil explained that he sees three main groups of students in RTA: those who just need time to work; those who do the work and lose it before they turn it in; and those who don't care.
- There were several ideas about how to recognize and celebrate the students' successes. Some of the suggestions were as follows: Continue to list the honor roll in the local paper. Put a scrolling marquee sign in the commons area. Recognize students with 100% attendance. Hand out academic letters during an assembly. Broadcast media class might be able to post information on WebTV.
- The counselors do not plan to give the ASVAB test next year.
- Jay said that his group has been focusing on communication to make sure that all information from the Steering Committee and the Leadership team is shared. They have also been working with the data from common assessments. They have been discussing MAP and their experiences with MRI techniques.
- Lynn's group has been talking about changes they could make to help struggling students. They have also been analyzing data from common assessments and talking about their successes and failures with MRI strategies that they have tried.
- John's group has been working on common assessments for World History and American History and well as rewriting curriculum.
- Chris's group continues to get information about weighted classes. So far, it seems that about 2/3 of the respondents do not have weighted classes.

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- MAP tests will be given next year but in 2009 we will be giving end-of-course content area exams in Algebra I. These new tests are anticipated to have constructive response questions that will be graded in-hour and then forwarded to the state. They will also have multiple choice questions. They will be graded before the end of the year and included as part of the student's grade in the class.
- Judy's group has been working on the Transition Fair that will be held in March. There should be about 22 agencies represented.
- Phil talked about a GLE workshop that his group attended. They have also been discussing alternatives to the current upper level girls' PE. They are planning a summer school course for ½ PE credit that will take advantage of the outdoors and the bike trail.
- Marcella's group is continuing to work on a transportation budget and a separate vocation travel budget.
- Susan's group has been discussing leadership issues. They are also talking about upcoming events such as conferences, foreign language week and a club activity collecting school supplies for Rainbow Network.
- Chris mentioned that Willard will be hosting the Mid-Continent Drum Championships on March 31.
- Melissa said that their group has been sharing ideas from the Write to Learn conference. They are discussing ways to encourage parents to read the novels along with the students. They are planning to go to an all-novel curriculum next year that will include poetry and short stories but no textbook. Their department will offer a reading class next year. And they have been talking about the MRI strategies.
- Cathy said that she will put the new guidelines for the graduation class of 2010 in the mailboxes.
- Jay explained that the leadership team and department chairs have been talking about the failure rate. Jolene will be running a copy of the "F" list every Monday. Committee members should encourage all teachers to keep grades as up-to-date as possible. With frequent checks maybe we can determine the causes for the failure rate. Is it due to a student's absence and failure to complete make-up work, for example?
- Jay explained a system that Nixa uses in an effort to decrease the number of absences. Initially, the parents are contacted by mail. On the 7th absence, there is direct contact with the parent. Next, the prosecuting attorney's office is contacted and by the 10th absence they go to the prosecuting attorney's office to file a complaint.
- Failure rates continue to be a concern for the board. They will be gathering information from other buildings as well as the high school.
- John mentioned that one reason for the numbers of F's during the school year in Lib and Law may partly be due to the fact that many of the more-academic students took it in the summer to allow more time during the school year for other classes.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00

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Minutes submitted by Nancy Ipock

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