



Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Administraion Building

Assistant Superintendent's Office

233 1st Ave E

KalisPELL, MT 59901

7/9/2015 9AM

1. Welcome and Introductions

Members Present: Chair Mary Ruby, Jeremy Reed, Bette Albright

Members Absent: Don Murray

Others Present: Superintendent Mark Flatau, Assistant Superintendent Andrea Johnson, Beth Kornick

2. Professional Development for 2015-16 School Year

a. District Professional Development & Early Release Focus

Assistant Superintendent Johnson reviewed the Professional Development and Early Release Focus as presented. There are five areas of focus that each school will utilize:

1. Adjust Instruction to match the Instructional shifts in mathematics and English/language arts through 8 Mathematical Practices, Close Reading of Text, and Writing for Many Purposes.
2. Focus Instructional Approach on the Rigor/ Relevance framework, move from Activities to Problem Solving. Lots of strategies for students on how to take notes, etc.
3. Help teachers help students to develop effective Habits of Mind. Focus on developing Persistent problem solvers, teachers don't let students off the hook, they keep with them, really being able to stick to it even when it gets messy. Habits of the Mind is teaching them to think, how to store, and what are your strengths and how can we use those to improve your weaknesses.
4. Use effective assessment practices and incorporate performance tasks into the learning process. Formative Assessment. Performance Assessment and Tasks.
5. Create a culture of Achievement in our district and at each of our schools. Professional Learning Communities/Collaborating Around Student Achievement. 4 Questions essential to improved student achievement.

Each Early Release/Professional Development Day will have a focus but on the schools own schedule. This applies K-12.

Trustee Reed asked if the District could start a program to teach parents how to use/help teach the math curriculum because parents have no clue how to teach/help kids math.

Chair Ruby stated that the District used to have a Family Resource Center but they went out of fashion and we do need to do something.

It was stated that the District might be able to use Adult Education Funds for this idea. The Committee also discussed possible hosting of Math Game Nights which Ms. Johnson said she would be happy to work with the Principals on ideas.

Ms. Johnson then talked about the 7 Professional Instruction days. Trustee Albright stated that she has heard a concern from the general public that the District has too many PIR days. Albright thinks we need to better educate the public on what we do with those PIR days.

Ms. Johnson stated that she might start posting the PIR agendas so the public knows what the teachers will be working on each time. The need for PIR can also be reinforced through the elementary newsletters and through Edulink. Superintendent Flatau stated that it is imperative for the public to understand that a well educated staff = a well educated student.

The Committee then talked about a recent letter to the Editor about the need for Professional Development. Trustee Albright stated that she will bring a copy of it for the Board at the next Board meeting.

Ms. Johnson then presented the 5 areas for Flexible PIR opportunities for staff:

1. School Climate
2. Instructional Improvement
3. Assessment/Achievement
4. Literacy
5. Indian Education for All

The four Evaluative Domains upon which professional development will be focused are:

1. Planning and Preparing for Learning
2. Creating an Environment for Learning
3. Teaching for Learning
4. Professionalism

Trustee Albright stated that she really like this format. Superintendent Flatau commented that these are the four domains used in evaluating the Principals this year too. Ms. Johnson added that it is a way to get everyone to focus in the same direction and move students forward. Mr. Flatau added that one of the requirements of the MBI Grant was to send teams of staff to training so all schools sent representatives who will then bring back what they learned to their colleagues.

Trustee Ruby suggested that we might want to translate that into real, understandable language for parents.

b. New Teacher Induction and Mentoring

Assistant Superintendent Johnson talked to the Committee about New Teacher Induction and Mentoring. The 1st Year Teachers are going to participate in a book study on "Teach Like a Champion" by Doug Lemov which focuses on the first domain of the Charlotte Danielson curriculum. In the morning of the first day of new teacher orientation the first year teachers will be getting a district overview complete with logistics. In the afternoon they will be with two district leaders focusing on the learning climate. The next day the teachers will meet with the Principals, Department Heads, and Instructional Coaches at their specific school site. In November the teachers will focus on Creating and Environment for Learning in the morning and meet with their mentors in the afternoon. In February the teachers will work on Creating an Environment for Learning in the morning and then will do classroom observation with their mentors in the afternoon.

The 2nd Year teachers will be delving deeper into all of the things they learned/observed in their first year.

The 3rd Year teachers will be meeting with Eliza from the Northwest Educational Coop to talk about Professionalism then they have a celebration/reflection and onto graduation.

Ms. Johnson pointed out that Kalispell is a real leader in this new teacher induction model and that many schools would like to do this. Superintendent Flatau reminded the Committee that this great program is funded by Applied Materials.

c. Professional Development Calendar

Assistant Superintendent Johnson presented the Writing Training Schedule. Nelia Solberg will be meeting with staff at all 5 elementary schools and delving deeper into the Lucy Culkins curriculum.

3. Striving Readers Grant

Assistant Superintendent Johnson stated that Bill Sullivan, Principal at Russell Elementary and Glenda Armstrong, Principal at Elrod Elementary presented on the Striving Readers and she would like to invite them to speak at the August Curriculum Committee meeting.

a. Grant Meeting Helena, June 23rd & 24th

b. Grant Progress Report and Goals for 15-16 Due by Late August

4. Board Curriculum Meeting Focus for 2015-16

Assistant Superintendent Johnson presented the list of meeting topics for the Curriculum Committee in 2014-15 and asked for anything the Committee would like to see added or changed. Ms. Johnson noted that Achievement Data review

is slated for August but those numbers may not be available until September.

a. Brainstorm Committee's needs for 15-16 School Year

Chair Ruby asked the Committee members to look over the schedule and email Ms. Johnson with any ideas.

Superintendent Flatau stated that he would like to see development and revision to our instructional material adoption process as well as in instructional adoption cycle to determine where the needs are and what areas we need to realign and plug new materials into. Ms. Johnson added that it takes about a year to decide on new curriculum materials, it takes a thoughtful process of evaluation so that in the spring we are ready to make recommendations to the Board.

Mr. Flatau stated that tackling lagging in reading at the Elementary level will be the first focus, looking at a budget of about \$200,000 district wide.

5. Future Meeting Times

6. Other

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.