

EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, July 20, 2017

10:00 a.m.

Agenda

Attendance: Dr. DeFabiis, A.Shinn, L. Simon, K. Tucker, J. Belske, S. Pauch, W. Doran, C. Filler, S. Brown, S. Moffat, J. Bohm

*** The meeting was started with an update about the District Internet being down on Wednesday 7/19: This was an internal issue that was narrowed down to Holland Brook School being the cause of the interruption. The locations in HBS have been identified, but the actual devices have not been. Mr. Belske needs to work with the tech company to find the root cause analysis so improvement and prevention steps can be taken. Dr. DeFabiis voiced concerns about future events possibly happening during PARCC. He would like to get quotes for a quicker turn around time from the tech companies. This would be specified in future contracts. Dr. DeFabiis would also like to see on site training for our Tech Department with the companies in the future.

1. Chromebook 1:1 Initiative at RMS – Update

Mr. Belske showed the committee the Chromebook Home Site which shows all the steps and procedures families and students of Readington Middle School will need to follow in order to successfully complete the paperwork and agreements for the students to use the chromebooks this coming school year.

New this year is an option to take the chromebooks home. A release will need to be signed and insurance will need to be purchased in order for the students to be able to participate. Payment will be an online option through myschoolbucks or by check. There will be assistance offer for those in need of it.

Mr. Belske, Mrs. Moffat and the team at RMS is still working on the logistics on how to determine who is and is not in compliance and able to take home their devices.

2. Board Certified Behavior Analyst

This expert is being hired as a shared service with HCRHS. She is someone who is an expert in observing and assessing students with behavioral issues. She will create a plan and work with the parents, teachers, paraprofessionals and staff in the school as well as work with parents to ensure the plans that are agreed upon and in place are followed to help the student.

BCBA will develop behavior modification plans and will be in constant communication with our current Board Certified Assistant Behavior Specialist, Mrs. Lopes-Schreiber, to ensure the plans are current and if modifications are needed they are made and the support for the staff and parents is given to accommodate and manage these changes in an effective manner.

This year this position is a shared service, data will be gathered, effectiveness will be observed and this position will be revisited for next year and may become a full-time position.

Dr. DeFabiis and Mrs. Tucker believe there is a need and this will be very helpful to our district.

3. Self-assessment for HIB

The annual Self Assessment for HIB was review with the committee. This is completed by each School Safety Team. They use these assessments to review needs, progress as well as to ensure previous items that were put in place were utilized and built upon.

The School Safety Teams consist of Administrators, Counselors, Teachers, Paraprofessionals, Parents, Child Study Team Members.

The assessments help the Safety Teams to follow what is happening in the schools as far as intervention referrals, HIB, Social interactions and helps them while they are working to create activities and plans to help teach the students and staff

4. Local Special Education Report 2015-2016

A Federally mandated legislation that the State had to develop a plan to ensure our Special Ed students are progressing in a comparable way to their peers throughout the state.

The data is 2 years behind, but in reviewing the data there were 2 areas of concern in which Mrs. Tucker and her teams are working on. 1. is Indicator 3: Assessment-Performance Indicator Section C: Proficiency rate of children with IEPs against grade level standards and alternate achievement standards. This is relation to the PARCC testing.

This, on the state level is not met, Mrs. Tucker provided data from our sending districts to Central as well as comparable districts in our area and the data was much better. Unfortunately with IEPs not all students are taught at their grade level, they are taught at their ability level and then expected to test at grade level. Also during the time period of this data, 2015-2016, there was a low participation in the PARCC.

The next is Indicator 5 School Age LRE-Performance Indicator Section A: Percent of children with IEPs aged 6 through 21 inside the regular class 80% or more of the day. We did not meet this because of the way the schedules are set up. Mrs. Moffat is working with Mrs. Tucker to try and find a small solution to this. In the lower schools since Literacy is a longer period, if a student is pulled out for just literacy they are automatically out of class for 21% of the day, whereas at RMS if they are pulled again for only 1 class they are out for less than 20% of the day.

5. Review of district mathematics assessment data

- In-school assessment results vs. PARCC data

Mrs. Pauch reported out on the in school assessments and the PARCC data. For 2 years the in school assessments seem to be lower than the PARCC data. Mrs. Pauch is working with the teams to determine how this can be corrected to give a clearer picture and add accuracy to our in-school assessments.

Data will also be sorted by cohorts instead of grades. This would give a clearer picture of students as they grow instead of a constant new group in that grade. This will help the administration to better identify needs quicker, be it intervention or growth to advanced and honors classes.

6. 4th grade class composition (mathematics)

- Scheduling

Dr. DeFabiis informed the committee that Holland Brook School will be heterogeneous classes and the students will be switching for Math only this year. Last year the students changed classes for Math and Language Arts .

7. Summer curriculum writing update

Staff are working on the updated Curriculum this summer in the areas of Mathematics and Language Arts. As they are reviewed and completed they will be distributed to the Committee for additional review and then review by the board for approval.

8. Opening Day In-service

More information will be given on this at a later time after Dr. DeFabiis speaks with Union Leadership.

9. Hunterdon County Ed Tech Fest

- August 16th, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

We are hosting the Hunterdon County Ed. Tech Fest! It will be held at HBS.

10. Additional items

No new items at this time