

MINUTES OF BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES WORK SESSION
APRIL 29, 2019

The Board of School Trustees met in a work session on Monday, April 29, 2019, at the Education Support Center. The following members were present: Mrs. Elizabeth Galligan, President; Mrs. Jenny Higbie, Vice-President; Mrs. Elaine Murphy, Secretary; Mr. Joseph Brown, Member; Mrs. Donna Corbett, Member; and Mrs. Lee Ann Wiseheart, Member. Also present were the following administrators: Dr. Brad Snyder, Superintendent; and Mr. Bill Briscoe, Assistant to the Superintendent for Administration and Operations. Mrs. Rebecca Gardenour, Board Member, was present via phone.

A. CALL TO ORDER:

Mrs. Galligan called the work session to order at 6:00 p.m.

B. RECITE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mrs. Galligan asked everyone to join in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Receive Information Regarding Graduation Pathways Requirements and Early College Endorsement Update;

Dr. Jensen and Mr. Alan Taylor explained the Graduation Pathways requirements that are in place for the Class of 2023. Our school district requires students to have 42 credits to graduate; the State requires 40. The Graduation Qualifying exam that is currently given and students required to pass in order to graduate will expire this year. Indiana was only one of two to require this. In the Spring of 2017, the State began reviewing standards and made significant changes. Now with the Graduation Pathways, students in the graduating class of 2023:

- **Diploma** - Earn **one** of the diploma designations:
 - Core 40
 - Academic Honors
 - Technical Honors
 - General
- **Employability Skills** - Complete at least **one** of these experiences:
 - Project-Based Experience
 - Service-Based Experience
 - Work-Based Experience
- **Competencies** - Meet at least **one** of these competencies:
 - Honors Diploma
 - Academic or Technical
 - ACT (must meet at least two of the four requirements)
 - English - 18
 - Reading - 22
 - Math - 22
 - Science - 23
 - SAT (must meet individual scores in each subject)
 - Evidence Based Reading and Writing - 480
 - Math - 530
 - ASVAB
 - The minimum score a student must earn is 31
 - Industry Certification
 - Certification list approved by the Department of Workforce Development
 - Apprenticeship
 - Federally recognized apprenticeship
 - Career & Technical Education Concentration
 - Must earn a C average or higher in at least six high school credits in a state approved CTE pathway program of study
 - AP/IB/Dual Credit/Cambridge International/CLEP
 - Must earn a C average or higher in at least three courses
 - One of the three courses must be in core content OR be part of a CTE pathway
 - Locally Created Pathway
 - Must be approved through the State Board of Education process

In regard to the Employability Skills, Dr. Jensen explained that the district received a \$43,000 grant to “re-tool” the CIE class that freshman are currently required to take. Beginning with next year’s freshman, the required class will be a Career and Technical class and will fit into this Project-Based Experience category. For students who complete community service throughout their high school career, those hours would fall into the Service-Based Experience category. And if students show evidence of holding down a job while attending high school, that would fall into the Work-Based Experience category. The graduation requirement is only one of these areas. The counselor is the “gate-keeper” to monitor this.

Mrs. Gardenour asked for data on our SAT scores. She also asked if there is an Agriculture Pathway. Mr. Taylor said there is, but students have to attend Prosser. Dr. Jensen said they did a survey among 8th grade students and there was not interest to have a program in the high schools.

Mrs. Wiseheart commented she feels this new process will have a positive impact on our graduation rate. She asked if this will impact teacher evaluation on the testing competency since testing will be changing. Dr. Jensen said at the high school level it will be changing.

Mr. Brown asked why the Career and Technical class is offered in freshman year. He doesn’t feel freshman are thinking about jobs and careers, but seniors probably are. Dr. Jensen explained by offering to freshman it helps with diploma tracks, exposes them to careers, and is a good beginning point to helping them understand what classes are needed in their high school career.

Mrs. Corbett asked if students have an opportunity to job shadow and Mr. Taylor said they do have that opportunity through programs at Prosser.

In regard to the Early College Initiative:

- The Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning at the University of Indianapolis provides leadership that is both cutting-edge and action-oriented. It was created in 2001.
- It unites districts, schools, communities, universities, and businesses to build a sense of urgency and form innovative collaborations for statewide educational and economic improvement.
- To earn the Statewide Transfer General Education Core 30 hours, a student must earn 3 hours in each of the following areas:
 - Speech - 3 hours
 - Written communication - 3 hours
 - Quantitative Reasoning - 3 hours up to 9 hours
 - Scientific Ways of Knowledge - 3 hours to up 10 hours
 - Social and Behavioral Ways of Knowledge - 3 hours to 9 hours
 - Humanistic and Artistic Ways of Knowledge - 3 hours to 9 hours
 - Electives from any of the above areas = 30 hours

Dr. Jensen said in 2018 our district had 60 students take advantage of this opportunity through IUS - 28 from FCHS and 32 from NAHS. In 2019, there are 86 students. And, in 2020, the program will be through Ivy Tech and we have already 200 students signed up. The only cost for the program is \$150 for the speech class.

Receive Information on Dyslexia Training:

Mrs. Michele Ferree and Mr. Duffy shared that beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, each school corporation shall employ at least one individual to serve as an authorized reading specialist trained in dyslexia. Fortunately for our district, we were on the forefront of this and have had training for staff and instructional assistants multiple times. We have had training from the Dyslexia Institute of Indiana and now our literacy coaches will be providing additional training. To be fully in affect this coming school year, we must:

- determine screeners
- have six subsets of tests
- special education teachers and interventionists trained
- materials purchased
- letters to parents to discuss screening and interventions
- data kept on our website

Mrs. Ferree reviewed the approved training program guidance, universal screener information, and possible screening tools information, and the Dyslexia Intervention Program Check from the Indiana Department of Education.

Receive Information Regarding AP Capstone Diploma;

Dr. Michele Ginkins explained that this program will be offered to students at NAHS in place of the IB program. Two NAHS teachers attend required week of training during the summer. They have applied for and received scholarships to attend this training. In addition to completing the Indiana Diploma requirements, a student must earn a “3” or higher on four (any subject areas) AP courses and earn a “3” or higher on the foundational courses AP Seminar and AP Research.

Dr. Ginkins said a staff member will coordinate the program, similar to the IB program. Currently, they have 50 students enrolled for next year.

Mrs. Wiseheart said she is pleased the Administration is doing this as it is a cost savings and fits the students’ needs. Is this something we should consider moving to at FCHS or offering both? Dr. Jensen said it is something we will look and monitor over time. He feels having both would be “overkill”.

Mrs. Corbett asked if students could transfer from one high school to the other if they preferred to have AP Capstone or IB. Dr. Jensen said yes, that option is available.

Mrs. Gardenour asked if we have enough counselors available at the high schools given the workload of the Graduation Pathways and this program? Dr. Ginkins said you could always use more; they have a lot on their plate. However, just because of AP Capstone, she doesn’t feel additional counselors are needed. Dr. Jensen added that with the Lilly grant, a College Readiness counselor was added, but we will continue to monitor.

Discuss Strategic Planning Process;

Mrs. Wiseheart said, in her opinion, they have received information from Dr. Snyder at previous Board meeting and she is fine with him bringing a recommendation at the next meeting. Mrs. Gardenour said she is fine with that also.

Mrs. Corbett said she attended a planning session at the NSBA. She prefers having a non-biased person leading the discussion; therefore she has concerns with Michael Adamson leading the discussion.

Consider Retreat / Work Session / Executive Session;

Dr. Snyder suggested June 1st from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm for retreat/work session/executive session. Mrs. Wiseheart said she is “pro-retreat”; however she prefers an evening for team building and a next day for the “nuts and bolts.” Mrs. Galligan said she is fine with Dr. Snyder’s proposal. Mrs. Higbie is not available June 1st but is fine to miss if others are available. Mr. Brown agrees that four hours is too short; he prefers a weekday meeting. Mrs. Gardenour asked if Board members can send their agenda items to Dr. Snyder. Dr. Snyder said his model is not to be controlling - it is the bear minimum use of time and still be efficient and move the district forward.

Following the discussion, Dr. Snyder will come up with options and email the Board.

With no further topics, the work session was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Schindler, Recording Secretary