

# **Superintendent's Lay Advisory Council Meeting**

## **ZOOM**

**November 8, 2021**

## **Minutes**

### Members:

Dr. Robin Felty, Superintendent

Meghan Eckert (MS), Chairperson

Caryl Buffa (HS), Secretary

Marissa Kmiec (HS)

Elizabeth O'Brien (HS)

Jill Speizer (HS)

Renee Suydam (HS)

Moniqua Acosta (MS)

Carrie Evans (MS)

Sharee Livingston Anderson (MS)

Jessica Kahler (LRIS)

Steve Kemper (LRIS)

Rosamund Mische John (LRIS)

Kim Romano (LRIS)

Julia Kamanda (Brecht)

Dan Nyiri (Brecht)

Rachel Waldo (Brecht)

Jadie Catania (Bucher)

Allyson Gibson (Bucher)

Jackie Wachinski (Bucher)

Kisha Johnson (Neff)  
Denise Rosario (Neff)  
Meredith Steidler (Neff)  
Jenine Nicholas (Nitrauer)  
Nancy Izquieta (Nitrauer)  
Stephanie Ruth (Nitrauer)  
Carolyn Garneau (Reidenbaugh)  
Melissa Grosh (Reidenbaugh)  
Meghan Ryan-Keller (Reidenbaugh)  
Anu Varadarajan (Schaeffer)

Members Absent:

Lauren Becker (Schaeffer)  
Becky Trayers (Schaeffer)

Guests: Sharon Schaefer – Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Jessica O’Gorman - Supervisor of K-12 English Language Arts, Dr Dale Reinmann - Assistant Superintendent

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Call to Order

- Meeting began 6:30 pm.
- I. Welcome and Introductions
  - II. Minutes from September 2021 approved
  - III. SLAC By-Laws
    - Commonality – they were all recently updated by schools
    - Dr Reinmann spoke to principals asking to check over and clean up and distribute to all that needed. Check with PTOs that 2020-21 still works for 2021-22.

- All K-8 bylaws are updated
- PTO Members can reach out to principals to review

#### IV. Assessment Framework and Grading Guidelines

- Assessment, grading and homework for K-12
- Identify common tools across District
- Grading, late work, retakes, homework, plagiarism
- Reduce inequities and increase fair grading practices
- Assessments: Summative and Formative
- Weightings: Homework 5%, Formative 25%, Summative 70%
- What is versus not homework: practice, review and preparation
- K-2, 15 minutes per night +5, not to exceed 20 minutes
- 3rd, 15 for reading +15 other content, not to exceed 30 minutes
- 4th, 15 for reading +25 not to exceed 40 minutes
- 5-8, not to exceed an hour
- 9-12 not to exceed 2-2.5 hours
- On-going feedback from teachers
- Grading Committee will reconvene to review feedback and make changes if needed
- Will be making adjustments/changes as soon as this school year if required and dependent on feedback from students, teachers, parents.
- Questions from members:
- MS re: summative – not one size fits all, how are students handling this new focus. Variety is being seen, some like consistency and some are concerned about weighting.
- In MS & HS English teachers have been working hard to vary their formats in different types of writing, at LRIS – pilot for K-6 programs.
- Appreciate that it is being reviewed – concern that Formative at HS is going on transcripts for a program still being evaluated.
- Disconnect when the Summative is going well yet Formative doesn't show that. Could be due to the past 2 years of untraditional learning and testing to what expectations are now.
- Scaffolds and supports are important and teachers have discretion.
- HS-math homework being graded on correctness and not completeness. Also, teachers may miss understand that if no homework doesn't affect summative and the push for test end of the marking period, more than 2.5 hours of homework. Points seems lower this year which seems to affect grades.
- Inconsistency on FID and Snow Days. Framework is great but not unified.
- Points are designed by teachers and homework can be differentiated.

- Too much emphasis is placed on continuing school when home because kids deserve brain breaks and have a need for that emotional support time. Overall Citizenship.
- MS-Some students aren't receiving homework and that is different from previous years/past students.
- MS-concern from lack of homework in MS may be overwhelming when they move to HS where some are concerned with amount of homework. The number of tests per day are a concern – 6 tests for a missed day.
- Guidance was provided to teachers 5-12 in form of workload planner in Schoology.
- No homework weekends – was positive for many. They didn't align with holidays.
- HS-Timely feedback on assessments. Additional time to be given for extended essay.
- Extended use of electronics and heavily rely on iPad for many students.
- Common assessments help with equitable grading, although teachers may teach differently the grading is consistent.
- Is there a review of assignments and compare to Framework so that there is consistency to ensure teachers are providing same number of assignments?
- Reflections – could retakes be allowed for mastery of content for the next lesson or next course and not for grade improvement only. This is one of 4 things that will be reviewed for possible adjustments. Could it be more liberal with number of retakes.
- Need Framework to be consistent and planning done as collaboration so teachers are grading consistently. Interpretation of the Framework needs to be tightened up. Committee has to be clear in intent and how teachers could be implementing.

#### V. PTO Sharing – Reflections & Questions

- Email to Dr Felty: Is there something in place regarding equitable nature in schools: parent involvement, PTO members from one building are allowed in their building to drop supplies. Some schools are moving forward with room parents while others haven't had them in years. K-6 principals did meet and it is not new that different buildings have different events; all greatly support PTOs. All buildings have had PTO events. It is also defined by number of volunteers in the buildings. They are welcoming the questions coming to them and PTO members bringing new ideas. If you are feeling unwelcome, please reach out to building principals. Concerns at Neff about no events outside of school days.
- FDA has given recommendation to vaccinate to all school age students – will this affect mask policy. Governor has given new directive

today that masking becomes “a local concern”, so we default back to the Board Decision from August. Due to this there will be a January 13 Board Work Session to discuss and vote prior to January 17 at the December Board Meeting it will be announced to open up the discussion and dialog for new business to be voted on in January.

- New board members will be at a meeting December 6<sup>th</sup> where they come in and it is called Reorganization Meeting. That then goes into regular work session. Newly elected board members will be the ones who will be voting on January 13. Communication will be coming from Dr Felty to ensure all parent are aware. Work Sessions are 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month. Board Voting are 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. In person and live stream. Due to the anticipated attendance of the January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting it will be held elsewhere in the district, possibly the old Neff 6<sup>th</sup> auditorium.

#### Adjournment

- Meeting ended at 8:42 PM, with a motion

#### Remaining 2021-22 Meetings

1/10 - zoom

3/14 - zoom

5/9 – in-person