



West Windsor-Plainsboro Board of Education
Board Curriculum Committee Meeting
Superintendent's Office
February 9, 2015 6:30 PM

SUMMARY NOTES

BOE Attendance:

Dana Krug – Chair
Issac Cheng
Scott Powell

Administrative Liaison:

Martin Smith
David Aderhold

Guests:

DISCUSSION (●) / DECISION (*)

I. (●) District Performance Reports

The Committee will review the Performance Reports for each school. These are available at: <http://education.state.nj.us/pr/>

The CC reviewed the district Performance Reports and noted that overall the students in the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District performed well. The current School Performance Reports provide a plethora of data that is useful to examine as we continuously work toward improved performance for all students. It is important to note that the School Performance Reports are just one measure, using a set of criteria established by one specific organization. As an example: It is interesting to note that at the K-3 level, where college and career readiness is measured by student attendance, WW-P is rated as not as successful as other K-3 schools, but by middle school where a different measure is used, WW-P students outperform students in most other districts. Parents and students need to know that a combination of all assessments (in a variety of formats), ratings, and rankings show the measure of success. In addition, when looking at the HSN School Performance Report it is important to not just look at the narrative, but also examine the data points that are used to determine that narrative. While the report states that the school's academic performance is high when compared to schools across the state and about average when compared to its peers, the data points used relate to performance on the HSPA in which 97% are proficient or above in Language Arts and 94% in Math. Because, in general, HSPA is not a rigorous assessment, the passing rate across the state and our peer districts are all very high. Also, any student who is exempt from passing or takes a fifth year or more to pass is not included in these numbers. Since HSN is a magnet school for several special education programs, there are more students who would fit into these categories.

II. (●) Professional Development – February 19, 2015

www.wwpfeb2015.eventbrite.com

The CC discussed the many PD workshop offerings that staff has signed up to attend on the Feb 19 in-service day.

III. (●) Program Review Updates:

- Gifted & Talented
- Fine & Performing Arts

The External team developed surveys that have been sent to parents, students and staff. It is anticipated that the external team will have a first draft of their report to Central Office by mid-

March. In addition, the Internal team continues to meet as they work to develop the internal set of recommendations for program improvement.

There were no submissions in response to the RFP for the Fine and Performing Arts Program Review. The RFP will be distributed again, but it is probable that this will delay the collection of data to next school year.

IV. (*) **Overnight Field Trips**

To recommend approval for the following overnight field trips

- District Robotics Team to Mt. Olive, New Jersey, from March 6, 2015, through March 8, 2015. The cost of the trip is approximately \$125 per student.
- District Robotics Team to the Tech Valley Regional Competition in Troy, New York, from March 19, 2015, through March 21, 2015. The cost of the trip is approximately \$225 per student.
- Community Middle School PRISM – Maker Ambassadors to Digital Learning Day in Washington, D.C., from March 12, 2015 to March 13, 2015. The cost of the trip is approximately \$100 per student.
- District Robotics Team to Lehigh University, Lehigh, Pennsylvania, from April 12, 2015, through April 14, 2015. The cost of the trip is approximately \$175 per student.
- High School North Social Studies Legal and Political Experiences (IPL) class to the *We The People* competition in Washington, D.C., from April 24, 2015, to April 27, 2015 as part of the IPL curriculum. The cost of the trip is approximately \$700 per student. In addition, the district will provide financial support for this trip in the amount of \$20,000.
- Grover Middle School Outdoor Education to Timber Tops Camp Greeley, Pennsylvania from June 1, 2015, through June 5, 2015. The cost of the trip is approximately \$250 per student.
- Middle School and High School Future Problem Solvers to Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, from June 11, 2015, through June 14, 2015. The cost of the trip is approximately \$1,200 per student.
- Middle School and High School National History Days students to College Park, Maryland, from June 14, 2015, through June 18, 2015. The cost of the trip is approximately \$1,000 per student.

The CC recommends approval of these field trips.

The CC discussed concerns about the cost of the IPL trip and recommended discussing this with the class teachers and how to budget for this in the future. The CC also discussed the distance of the Outdoor Ed trip and the disparity of camps between the two middle schools.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2015

Future Topics

Program Review Updates