

School Board Program and Property Committee
OEG IMC – December 14, 2015 – 6:19 PM
Minutes

Membership: Abulkhair Masoom
Nancy Bongers-arrived at 6:22 pm
Eric Fatzinger
Connie Valenza
Art Beaulieu

I. Previous Meeting Minutes

a. Minutes from the November 23, 2015 meeting were accepted as printed.

II. Program Topics

Superintendent Valenza began the committee meeting with discussing the French trip and concerns regarding overseas travel. Many school districts are putting off overseas trips at this time. There have been conversations with the students and parents/families about options on the trip. Options would be to possibly travel to Quebec or to delay the French trip by one year. It was decided that the best option would be to delay the trip.

The subject of school “sponsored” trip was discussed and the committee members want to re-visit this subject matter in the future. Where does the district stand regarding financial liability? More clarification is needed. Possibly look at insurance options for families to try to find a manageable fee for coverage. Currently travel insurance is expensive.

Superintendent Valenza introduced high school staff involved with PHS Coursework changes. Amelia Armstrong – HS Choral Music Director, Garret Jones – HS Social Studies Teacher and Tim Engh –HS Principal standing in for Brigid Reimann – HS Agriculture Teacher who was ill.

-Amelia was first to present her proposal on Beginning Guitar. This course would be a semester course that would meet every other day and would be an option for students in grades 10-12. This course would be swapped with the Adaptive Music course that is currently being offered (very low numbers). She explained that the Adaptive Music course is determined by a students’ IEP. Amelia stated that most of our IEP students that request music already have one music class scheduled. If the low numbers increase in the future, she would be glad to re-visit offering the course again. Amelia explained the budget for the beginning guitar course. No extra staffing is needed and the possible grant money/donations from the Platteville Music Boosters and the Platteville Community Fund would cover a large amount of the funds needed. The donations along with the Platteville School District supply budget would reach the total requested money needed in order for the program to be initiated. The budget includes the purchase of guitars, stands and brackets, guitar book, picks and annual restringing. Summer curriculum development hours would also be needed and arranged with the school district.

-Garret presented his proposal on AP Psychology. This would be a year-long course offered in place of AP World History. He explained that AP World History is a very rigorous course with very low numbers. Garret believes that the AP Psychology would be very popular with the students and would result in a higher success rate. If this course is approved, he would like to propose that the Intro to Psychology course be available to all 11th & 12 graders (currently only available for 12th graders). Superintendent Valenza briefly explained that the high school currently offers three AP Social Studies courses and she doesn’t recommend offering more than three total. The current AP Social Studies courses are: AP World History, AP Government and AP US History. There was discussion on the success of a course. (i.e. content, grade level and popularity). It was suggested that we possibly focus and improve on what we already have. Garret believes that if AP Psychology is offered and we open the Intro to Psychology to juniors we could support as many students as possible and that it would have a bigger impact to the community with the AP Psychology proposal. Budget items for the new course would include textbooks and summer curriculum hours.

-Tim Engh presented the Biotechnology in Agriculture Course proposal submitted by Brigid Reimann. This course would be offered every other semester- possibly opposite Plants & Soils and would count toward science credit. Currently our Biology classes are full with no room for an AP course option. Tim explained briefly the pre-requisites and the description for the course. He added that this course could take agriculture to a new level. The course would expose students to science and agriculture opportunities that are not limited to farming. Today’s Agriculture is a growing career area with many options.

There would be some minor startup costs with this course (under \$1,000) but the plan is to share most supplies needed with the science department and vice versa.

The committee members redirected a requested to Garret Jones regarding the AP World History course. They would like the actual numbers of the students signed up for the course, number of students taking the

course and the number of students that are successful in that particular course. Garret will look into the numbers and get back the results back to the members.

III. Property Issues

Superintendent Valenza explained that they will need to begin discussing the 2016-17 handbook but no decisions will be made at this time.

Due to the time constraint, she will give a facilities update during the board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm

Recorded by Lynne Tanner