

School Board Program and Property Committee
OEG IMC – January 11, 2016 – 5:48 PM
Minutes

Membership: Abulkhair Masoom
Nancy Bongers
Eric Fatzinger
Connie Valenza
Art Beaulieu

I. Previous Meeting Minutes

- a. Minutes from the December 14, 2015 meeting were accepted as printed.

II. Program Topics

Superintendent Valenza and Principal Engh give an overview of the PHS Coursework Changes/Requests. Mr. Engh introduced high school History/Social Studies teacher Randy Henderson. Randy talked about the popularity of Introduction to Psychology and they believe that if the AP Psychology was added as an option, many of the students would also take that course.

There was discussion on the AP World History course that would be potentially dropped and questions were asked regarding the low number of students that take the course. AP World History isn't a "popular" course. There has been a decline in enrollment for the course since the first year it was offered. Today's students seem to relate better to "current" rather than "historic". These low numbers could also be due to conflict of other classes being offered and/or the conflicts that the high school scheduling presents.

Randy and Tim talked about the different AP courses that are currently being offered at the high school. They believe that these high school AP courses prepare students for college or vocational school. Randy Henderson believes that the courses, when taught at high school level, have more time spent on material and the students typically do better once they graduate and attend a college. Platteville High School students are never discouraged from taking AP classes.

Students/families from low social and economic backgrounds were briefly discussed. We need to figure out how to keep closing the gap.

Mr. Engh explained that there weren't any concerns with the proposed Biotechnology in Agriculture or the Beginning Guitar courses.

Abulkhair Masoom and Nancy Bongers agreed to go forward with the changes. Eric Fatzinger stated that he would like to take it to the full board for more discussion and possible approval.

Superintendent Valenza briefly discussed the 2016-17 School Year Calendar. We still honored parent feedback from the last survey. The start date (Sept. 6) could be a few days earlier but would like to give the construction a few extra days if needed. The last day of school will be the first week in June (June 8th). Our breaks still coincide with UW-Platteville and we have 3 student snow days built in. If the board is in agreement, we would have approval at the next school board meeting. (January 25, 2016). Personal days will need to be addressed with staff.

III. Facilities Project Update

Superintendent Valenza updated the committee members on the upcoming activities connected to the construction projects. Bi-weekly progress updates with Kraemer Brothers, PRA and sub-contractors will begin the week of Jan. 13th and will go through August. Superintendent Valenza shared slides on the progress taking place at Westview!

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm

Recorded by Lynne Tanner