

WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT Education Committee Minutes

Submitted by: Dawn Teske

The EDUCATION COMMITTEE met at 7:15 p.m. on Monday, December 21, 2009, in the Professional Development Center at the Longfellow Administration Center. The meeting had been properly posted in compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.

PRESENT: John Ostertag, Chairperson; Scott Kreuser, Jane Rusch, and Michelle Schaefer

ALSO PRESENT: Dr. Donald Viegut, Deputy Superintendent of Education; Jane Freitag, Coordinator of School Counseling & AODA Programs; Tammy Fruik, Director of Special Education; Thom Hahn, Coordinator of Education; Jeff Joyce, Director of Pupil Services; Robert Marlowe, Career & Technology Education Coordinator; Mary Ellen Marnholtz, Coordinator of Community Relations; Joel VerDuin, Director of Technology & Media Services; Dr. Karen Wendorf-Heldt, Director of Education; Jeff Lindell, Associate Principal at Wausau East High School; Joe Svitak, Associate Principal at Wausau East High School, and Dawn Teske, Recording Secretary

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Ostertag called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rusch moved to approve the minutes from the November 23, 2009 Education Committee meeting. Kreuser seconded. Motion carried.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE EVALUATION UPDATE

Viegut reported that follow-up evaluation meetings for administrators are currently being held. High ownership appears to be evident among the administrative team. A renewed focus on student learning and school improvement is also evident. A growing alignment between the major District functions of professional growth and development, goal setting and evaluation, administrative meetings and school improvement is also being realized. The implementation of the new approach for administrative evaluation shows evidence of positive change and effectiveness.

Schaefer arrived at 7:55 p.m.

IV. UPDATE ON EDUCATION TEAM GOALS

Viegut reported that the Education Team has worked with all core area department chairs at the secondary level and elementary representatives to create a *Framework For Success* for the Wausau School District. Karen Hill, Wausau West Math Department Chair, stated the District must work together to achieve consistency. Michelle Klug, Franklin Elementary School first grade teacher, and Mary Ellen Marnholtz, Coordinator of Community Relations, reported that the framework was built upon the District's Mission and Vision, and established three major priorities of the school district – Student Learning; Culture, Climate, Collaboration, and Trust; and Fiscal Reality and Fiscal Strength. These priorities all are interdependent of each other to achieve Excellence and Innovation. The process facilitated has been very inclusive, and the contributions/ownership among faculty has been exceptional.

The secondary department chairs and elementary representatives also worked to create a District *PK-12 Unification Process for Excellence in Student Learning*. Doris Martin, Math Department Chair at Wausau East High School, stated the plan builds upon successful related prior work, and will help the District move forward in a commonly held direction. Carrie Peterson, Math Department Chair at John Muir Middle School; Dan Prihoda, Math Department Chair at Horace Mann Middle School; and Ann Christianson, Social Studies Department Chair at John Muir, also reported on various aspects of this

process including the next steps to be taken, complexity of the work, informing budget considerations and the integrity of the plans.

Viegut summarized that the District is continuing to grow through understanding past practice, creating safe environments and agreeing upon our future school improvement targets.

Ostertag favored allowing all teachers to come together at different grade levels to achieve consistency within the District.

The Committee thanked everyone for their hard work. Ostertag stated the secondary department chairs, elementary representatives and the Education Team will have the support and commitment from the Committee as they move forward with the *Framework For Success* and the *PK-12 Unification Process for Excellence in Student Learning* for the Wausau School District.

V. WAUSAU ENGINEERING AND GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY CURRICULUM AND CONTRACT

The Education Committee was given a PowerPoint presentation by Tim Fetting, Wausau West Technology Education Instructor; Michael Krohn, Wausau East Math Instructor; and Kristopher Schumacher, Wausau West Math Instructor, regarding the Wausau Engineering and Global Leadership Academy curriculum. An example of math implementation was provided to the Committee. The math instruction will be implemented through sequential (prepares for applied or field), applied (cross-curricular), and field (experiential) delivery methods. The curriculum delivery will be in the format of foundational, seminars, and workshops. Future updates will be provided.

Maryjean Hoppe, President of the Wausau Engineering and Global Leadership Academy Governing Council, presented the *Charter School Contract Establishing the Wausau Engineering and Global Leadership Academy*. Hoppe stated the mission of the EGL Academy is to engage learners to become productive adults serving others as leaders, problem-solvers and communicators. The Academy will open in the fall of 2010 and will be housed at Wausau East High School serving students in grades 10 and 11 initially, and students in grades 9 through 12 in year two. Enrollment capacity is targeted for between 120 to 150 students maximum.

Marnholtz stated EGL will work collaboratively with the University of Wisconsin and Northcentral Technical College, but will have its own identity.

Krueser questioned the number of clock hours for instruction. Marlowe noted that community involvement is an integral component of EGL's instructional delivery methods and often learning occurs in a non-traditional manner. Therefore, providing more flexibility for learning is fitting for this program.

Joe Svitak, Wausau East High School Associate Principal, is confident East High will be a suitable location for housing the EGL Academy.

Schaefer moved to recommend to the Board of Education the approval of the *Charter School Contract Establishing the Wausau Engineering and Global Leadership Academy* as presented. Rusch seconded. Motion carried.

VI. PROJECT LEAD THE WAY

Marlowe shared an article entitled "*It's All About Sustainability*" which highlighted the Wausau School District position in the Project Lead the Way program for long term success.

Marlowe stated the District would like to continue to offer Project Lead the Way curriculum at both Wausau East and West High Schools. Tim Fetting, Wausau West High School's Technology Education Department Chair, who is involved with PLTW, stated five courses are currently offered at

both High Schools. Marlowe noted that the staff is in continuous dialogue to build and sustain a successful PLTW program.

VII. UPDATE ON STUDENT TRIPS

Hahn gave an update on the foreign and extended travel student field trips that have been approved to date. The Spanish Department at Wausau East High School is planning a trip to Peru from March 24 to April 11, 2011, taking advantage of as much of spring break as possible. The trip will follow the Inca Trail and will include visits to Lima, Cuzco, and the magnificent temple ruins of Machu Picchu. The students will also visit Puno, the folklore capital of Peru, as well as several islands located on Lake Titicaca.

III. UPDATE ON PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Viegut thanked Ostertag for complimenting all staff for their contributions to the November 25, 2009 professional growth and development activities at the December 14, 2009 Board of Education meeting.

Viegut stated preparation for the January 22, 2010 Professional Growth and Development day is underway. Wendorf-Heldt distributed two PowerPoint presentations which were shared at the November PG & D focusing on the continuation to build capacity at the PreK-8 grade levels.

A cadre of teachers from G.D. Jones, Hawthorn Hills and Lincoln will be attending a training for school improvement and PBIS training which links to the *PK-12 Unification Plan for Excellence in Student Learning*.

IX. APPROVAL OF WAUSAU AREA MONTESSOURI CHARTER SCHOOL GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

In compliance with grant requirements, Board of Education approval is necessary for new governing board members for charter schools. Approval was requested for the following Wausau Area Montessori Charter School Governing Board candidates: Patti Filak, Miranda Huhnstock, Terri McHugh and Dan Weith.

Rusch moved to recommend to the Board of Education the approval of the following Wausau Area Montessori Charter School Governing Board candidates: Patti Filak, Miranda Huhnstock, Terri McHugh and Dan Weith. Kreuser seconded. Motion carried.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Schaefer moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 p.m. Rusch seconded. Motion carried.