

Biggs USD District Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes

January 24, 2013

3:30-5:00 pm District Office Board Room

Present: Doug Kaelin, Jennie Felkins, Char Locey, Amy Smith Diane Brown, Sandy Lattemore, Nelda Andes, Minden King, Leanne Glander, April Robinson, Dave Withrow.

Absent: Laura Dearden, Maxine Hamblin, Vera Bridges, Pam Ragan, Cami Roles, Suzanne Francis, Cadie Honan. Pam Sheppard, Angela Thompson

Meeting was called to order at 3:33 pm

Minutes were unanimously approved after a motion by Nelda Andes, second by Minden King.

1) Superintendent Update

- Enrollment: District enrollment is up with two small necessary schools. Biggs Elementary has 353 students. Average Daily Attendance (ADA) determines the funding levels for schools/district. The state looks at data twice a year (P1 and P2) enrollment to determine funding levels for the next year.
- Internet service upgrade: Currently the district is one-step above dial-up service. The district is working with ATT to upgrade service. We will go from 3 gigabytes to 45 gigabytes of service. ERATE provides reimbursement of 10 cents on the dollar based on the Free and Reduced lunch eligibility rate. The District technology plan is being updated.
- Title III Services and EL Reclassification: Diane Brown asked about Title III services. Services for EL students are provided with these funds. Currently at BHS, only one English Learner is not fluent. Last year, the DELAC and BHS ELAC voted to revise the criteria for reclassification. Students who have a GPA of 3.0 or better, score Early Advanced or Advanced on the CELDT and score proficient on the CST two out of three years may be reclassified. The Board of Trustees honors reclassified students annually.

2) Elementary Curriculum Update: M. King

- Title I Program: Biggs Elementary School is in Title I Program improvement Year 2 and offers school choice and Supplementary Educational Services (SES) to eligible students and parents. SES implementation is beginning this month and is provided by state-approved private providers. Currently there are approximately 20 students participating. Implementation
- Leanne Glander discussed the G.I.R.L.S (Girls In Real Life Situations) program to support girls in grades 6-8. The focus is strategies to deal with peer pressure and teen drama that is associated with middle school.
- Math Grant Gds. 1-2: Minden King shared that BES was not selected for the grant.

3) Secondary Curriculum Update: D. Kaelin

- Semester 1 Report: The grade distribution was A's 29.2%, B's 22.8 %, C's 27.3%, D's 14.6%, F's 6.1%. 67 F's were given throughout Grades 9-12. Most F's were in math classes with a high percentage earned by freshmen. Parent conference is held for struggling students who are failing classes and interventions are not working. Some students who are failing many classes are moved to CDS for second semester for credit recovery with a goal to pick up credits for 9th grade and return to BHS as a sophomore. At the beginning of the second semester 12th grade students who are failing a class have a parent conference, as they are at-risk for graduation. Students are now tracked better and staff is dialoguing about how to make the HS experience more successful for more students. Letters are sent to parents of failing students indicating that students are not receiving credits. Every student receives their transcript so they know their status. To walk at graduation a student must have a 2.0 GPA.

- Athletes Committed Program: The program was developed by John Underwood and will be implemented school wide at BHS supported by grades 7-8 teachers. There is no charge to the district. Our initial focus is on good nutrition and adequate sleep. The January program kick-off included a student assembly for grade 7-12 students and staff. Later in the day, a parent meeting was held in Gridley. Chico USD is implementing the program and Gridley USD is considering it. **Wolverines Committed for Excellence** will be the mantra and it is hoped that this will help change the culture of the school. The school will receive a \$15,000 grant for materials and supplies and further trainings. The Board of Trustees will revise policies related to athletics. DAC suggested related activities:
 - Put quotes in locker room and around the school about commitment to succeed and reiterated health aspects of athletics.
- Fall CAHSEE Results: 14 students in grades 11-12 took the math portion of the test. 9 students passed. Currently only one 12th grade student has not passed. Grade 11-12 students may continue to retake the test in February and March. Tutoring and online intervention is available to students. All 10th grade students will take the test in March. This is called census testing and results are used for the API accountability measure.
- BHS School Culture Committee (Pride/Character Counts)
 - Continue the school culture committee with BHS staff to discuss strategies to improve school culture
 - Pride/Character Counts* will focus on 10 positive attributes. Monthly staff will recognize students that exemplify those characteristics
 - Put motivational quotes in bulletins and parent communications.
 - Continue weekly attendance drawings
- Spring Parent Nights (Grades 9,10,11) are being held and parent orientation for incoming 9th grade parents will occur in May.
- FFA/CTE: Career tech opportunities occur through ROP classes and FFA. Mr. Boges has an Ag credential and involves metal, woodshop and Ag production in projects such as construction of a stock trailer. Students will attend the Bull and Gelding Sale and the Tulare Farm Show. Overall, student participation has tripled the past two years and a parent organization is working to support students and the program.

4) District budget / Governor's January Update D. Kaelin

The Governor's budget will take several years for complete implementation. A new funding formula is weighted and will benefit some schools and districts and will hurt others. A political fight is anticipated before a final budget is approved. The first district budget is submitted in May. Two budget proposals will be developed, one under present conditions and a second under the proposed Governor's budget. The suggested funding model for small necessary schools may be positive for the district.

5) School Safety D. Kaelin, M. King

The district is updating school safety plans and district Crisis Response Procedures. Substitute teachers will receive a folder explaining school safety procedures. Safety drills are held regularly at schools. Specific safety concerns for Richvale were shared by committee members. It was also suggested that the district communicate more with parents about safety procedures so they are informed and help students understand the importance of the drills.

6) Considerations for 2013-14: The district was exploring an adult education program, however, it was learned that according to the Governor's budget, community colleges would be responsible for adult education.

7) Discussion items from committee/ Agenda items for next meeting:

- Report on implementation of safety drills (what and how) with info about debrief sessions with students.
- Check on greatschools.org. Promote contribution information about the district and schools.
- How can we get more press coverage about district activities? (Dawn)

Next meeting date: Thursday, April 11, 2013 held in the District Office Board Room, 3:30-5:00 pm