

Pottsgrove School District

Community Budget Task Force Meeting Minutes

Name of Sub-Committee: K-12 Educational Program

Date of Meeting: February 23, 2011

Admin. Co-chair: Shellie Feola **Community Co-chair:** TBD

Attending:

Herb Beekley, Cathy Bradfield, Todd Davies, Barry Flicker, Kristen Hyde, Phil Keogh, Terri Koehler, April Kontostathis, Rob Land, Crystal Lloyd, John Shantz, Elwood Taylor, Yolanda Williams, Pat Novak, Rick Romig, Hollie Kasper, Darrell Weyman

Topics Discussed:

1. Introductions
2. CPO- The context, purpose and proposed outcome for the committee were explained.
3. Norms & Agenda- Norms for conduct were reviewed for all participants and the agenda for the meeting was explained.
4. Explanation of I Think/We Think Protocol - The committee participants were asked to view the presentation of the K12 educational program while at the same time record their thoughts (I thinks) and questions as they viewed the presentation. Following the presentation, they would be given an opportunity to reflect on the information presented as well as collaborate with others. Additionally, they would be asked to report out to the full group prior to leaving the meeting.
5. Presentation of K-12 Educational Program including the following:
 - Elementary Program Description: focus, schedule, RTII, Encore
 - Middle School Program Description: Middle Level needs, promotion to HS, schedule
 - High School Program Description: graduation requirements, schedule, course of study, Alternative Education Program, Summer School

- Curriculum and staff development – district-wide: 2008 picture (where we were), 5 big ideas associated with high performing school districts; the progress to date in moving toward implementation of goals associated with high performing districts, and the research surrounding the importance of an aligned curriculum and staff development for professional staff.
 - Costs: The costs associated with the K12 educational program were presented in the following categories: building allocations, other programs (Alt Ed, Vo-tech, charter/cyber charter), curriculum and staff development (assessment, curriculum, instruction, professional development), personnel, and other salary.
 - Restrictions and Mandates: Federal, State, Collective bargaining agreements, and Board Policy restrictions and/or mandates were reviewed.
 - Bang for our Buck: Shellie Feola reiterated that the district strives to implement the best program for students while maintaining fiscal responsibility and that the district allocates money for the K12 educational program to those areas supported by research that will give the district the most bang for the buck.
6. Folders were distributed to each participant with additional information about the K12 educational program.
 7. Participants were given ten minutes for personal reflection to review the presentation notes and additional information and to complete “I thinks.”
 8. Participants broke off into small groups and were given twenty-five minutes for group discussion to complete “we thinks” and to prepare a report out for the rest of the group.
 9. Participants reported out on their questions, additional information needed and possible areas for reduction as summarized below:

Group Reports

The groups reported out – “We think” maybe we should consider...

- creating a locally run cyber school in order to attract students back from outside charter/cyber charter schools that cost the district money.
- using act 80 days for inservice in lieu of substitute coverage for teachers.

- using in-house administrative staff solely for the purposes of staff development rather than using of outside consultants.
- expanding the Alternative Education program and adapting it to accommodate special education students in order to keep them in the district.
- allowing the sub committees more time to process the information presented during our next session.
- allowing students from other school districts to come to our alternative ed and summer school programs to gain revenue.
- redistricting at the elementary level (due to Ringing Rocks construction) to consolidate programs and make better use of our resources (K-2 and 3-5).
- Garnering more parent involvement at the younger levels.

The following questions and/or additional information was requested:

- Projected enrollment for the future of the district.
- What percent of the RTII costs are supported with district vs. federal funds?
- What percent of the support staff have contact with children and what percent are administrative?
- What percent of the support staff that have contact with students are related to special education?
- Why do we only have 3 required credits for math?
- How is it determined where special education students are placed?
- How can we bring the cyber/charter students back?
- Would it be possible to purchase on line textbooks rather than hard copies?
- What is the quality of the cyber/charter school education compared to the district?
- Can we see the actual budget?
- What are the responsibilities of special payment positions outside of the school day? How much over the regular pay does a teacher make with special payments?
- Data from full K, how many aides are required?
- What is the difference between the business teacher and business education at the HS?

- How many Camphill placements do we have and what is the associated cost?

Outcomes from the Meeting:

Shellie Feola indicated that the department would compile the information from the report out of each group; review the questions and additional information requested, and prepare to bring back additional information for the next session.

The meeting concluded at 9:00 PM

Next meeting date: March 15, 2011