

RHINEBECK HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING LEVEL PLANNING TEAM

MINUTES February 5, 2004

Member's Present: Stephen Lezon, Nina Saxena, Parul Saxena, Sarah Rogine, Sarah Sutherland, Ted Alban, John Murphy, Susan Volin

Guest: Joseph Phelan

Member's Absent: Gary Sutherland, Larry Montalto, Barbara Wolcott, Pat Beecher, Diane Brown

Mr. Joseph Phelan, Superintendent of Rhinebeck School District, was introduced and thanked for his attendance.

Acceptance of Minutes: The meeting minutes of January 7, 2004 were accepted.

Drug-Free School Zone: John Murphy has spoken to Dennis McGuire and the Rhinebeck Mayor. Legal ramifications of having a Drug-Free School Zone (DFSZ) need to be explored. Mr. Phelan to contact the District's attorney for legal opinion.

Mr. Phelan shared his experience in applying/creating a DFSZ. Mr. Phelan to write letter to the municipality. Municipality to deal with paperwork.

Question of whom will pay for the DFSZ signs needs to be addressed. Fines and penalties are doubled for infractions within the DFSZ.

At next Administrators meeting, Mr. Phelan

to advise Building Principals of DFSZ application so that they can advise their respective BLPT's. Mr. Phelan will also advise the Board of Education of the DFSZ application at the next BOE meeting.

John Murphy will make contact with the Mayor, and will also get additional information by contacting other school districts who have already established DFSZ.

BOCES Program: Discussion of "Tech Center" kids and changes in their program there. There has been a raising of their academic requirements to help meet state requirements. A number of students have been "pulled out" for academics at the expense of their Tech program. Is there a Special-Education teacher there that oversees IEP's, accommodations, etc.

There are more kids here (high school) with lots of free time because they can't or don't want Tech. Program.

Joe addressed these issues by saying that he was unaware of a large attendance drop. Also, he has never heard of a new direction for BOCES. Academic courses have been offered for awhile now. Joe questions why students take certain academics at BOCES. It is understood that sometimes BOCES is only place/time to get academics covered.

Joe recommends informing Mr. Celenza if necessary, to set up a meeting with Claire Garvey at BOCES. Mr. Lezon has advised Mr. Celenza of situation. He will do this with Susan Volin and Guidance in greater detail.

Students Signing Out During The School Day: Discussion followed on a variety of issues.

- .. With a second gymnasium, will you need to be tied into a 9 period day? 8 period day?
- .. Lounge to go into Study Hall.
- .. Can district legally limit reasons a student is permitted to leave school?
- .. Concerns about liability and verification of parent's signature.
- .. Current program is skewed.

We provide full programming for high achieving students vs. programming for the remaining students. (under-served)

- .. Do you need to add additional courses in order to have a closed campus?
- .. How much is more?
- .. Next meeting maybe we should brainstorm ideas for next steps in closed campus process.
- ..

We should address parents of juniors and seniors and develop a letter to raise their awareness of these issues of leaving school multiple times, study halls and lounges.

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Process of introducing new/creative classes will be gradual and needs to be carefully planned and phased in slowly.

Shared comments of Mr. Celenza from meeting of 1/29/04. (Meeting of Mr. Celenza, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Lezon concerning student signing out/closed campus.)

- .. Monetary issue vs. Liability issue.
- .. Talking a couple of years to complete.
- .. Should only 12th graders be allowed to sign out?
- .. He is budgeting for additional aides for grades 11/12 study hall, and .5 FTE position for Math labs.
- .. He is scheduling one more elective in English.
- .. With Mr. Donaldson's retirement, the high school will lose law courses which will open up for other electives.

Question for RHS BLPT:

- .. What small step from this year to next September can be achieved in order to go towards closed campus?
- .. Should students be allowed to leave once a day?
- .. Mr. Celenza has asked that the BLPT touch base with him within the next month.
- .. Possibly should conduct a Parent's Forum to discuss/advise parents on closed campus idea.

Next meeting will be March 11, 2004 at 4:30 p.m. in the school library.

BLPT AGENDA

1. Power point presentation by Dr. Laura Sagan, Middle School Principal, on proposed changes to the Foreign Language Program at BMS. (See attached)
2. Drug-Free School Zone. (update)
3. BOCES Program. (update)
4. Students Signing Out During the School Day/Closed Campus.

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