

**RHINEBECK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
COMPREHENSIVE DISTRICT EDUCATION PLAN (CDEP)
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, May 26, 2010
11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

Members Present

Bobbie Bie	Brent Kacur	Cynthia Ping
Victor Britton	John Kemnitzer	Shaun Ramsey
Deidre Burns	Brett King	Susan VanVlack
Edwin Davenport	Marvin Kreps	Katherine Younger
Jane Ebaugh	Terri Kupiec	Pat Sexton
Katelin Grande	Erin O'Brien	
Jennifer Hammond-King	Joseph Phelan	

Members Absent

Bonnie Murphy

The meeting began at 11:30 am with review of the proposed agenda. The proposed agenda is as follows:

- Welcome and discussion of agenda
- Review and discussion of the CDEP and Process
 - Mission, Vision and Core Values
 - Annual Student Achievement Report
 - Indicators of Success and Metrics of Quality
- Review/Planning Superintendent's Conference Days: 2010-2011
 - September 7, 2010
 - October 8, 2010
 - November 12, 2010
 - April 1, 2011
- Technology Plan Development Process and Product
 - Technology Vertical Team
- BOE 21st Century Teaching and Learning Goal: Since several items in this regard were raised at the last meeting, I suggest that the committee have a thorough discussion of this topic.
- Code of Ethics: Sub-committee report
- Arts in Education: Next Steps?
- Review of School Climate Initiatives at CLS, BMS, RHS
 - Climate Survey: Next Year?
- Rhinebeck Science Foundation Update: Eco-Initiative
- SED Initiatives Update
- 2010-2011 Budget
- Other Items?

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Discussion of Agenda

Mr. Kreps opened with a review of the proposed agenda and an invitation for additional items for discussion. Ms. Burns requested a discussion on the Race to the Top application.

Review and Discussion of CDEP and Process

The CDEP Mission, Vision, and Core Values (MVCV) were developed early on and it is felt that now might be a good time to revisit the MVCV as well as the strategic goals. Committee agreed to adjust the MVCV rather than drafting a new statement. The committee discussed different means in reaching out to constituents for feedback. Ms. VanVlack agreed to develop a survey that we can be used on the district website to give and gather information from the community. The use of current mailings to notify parents about the survey as well notifications through school messenger can be used. Ms. Burns added that the task of collating information that comes back from the survey will take time and we will need someone to coordinate this.

Committee had a discussion on the expectation of K-12 students to be aligned to international standards, be better prepared for college and careers, and using 21st century skills. The current document has many good ideas and depth but the CDEP committee would like it to articulate a more global outlook and clarify the meaning of the vision statement in light of 21st Century Skills. As more and more students are interested in taking AP courses, are ready for early college programs, and want more challenging curriculum, a discussion on how to do that in challenging budget times was conducted with suggestions that include looking into collaborating with other institutions (such as the collaboration between Bard College and NY City School Districts) to have students complete college courses in high school, using technology to engage students, and using the Arts to collaborate between classes.

The CDEP committee discussed the need for more hands-on-program electives to engage those students who might not be heading to a 2-4 year college as well as engaging special education students who find a traditional program of study challenging. Some members of the CDEP committee suggested such hands-on-electives as landscaping, science, and technology.

The CDEP committee discussed measuring a student's academic growth and how that can be articulated in the plan. Presently, NYSED has not developed a growth model or testing in anticipation of changes to the common core. Mr. Kreps explained that, as of now, NYSED is looking to integrate the new common core standards and the existing core standards in some way. They will write a new set of assessments that measure annual growth and they've proposed to revise APPR for teachers and administrators that they can use with student growth. The common core is supposed to be finished this summer and NYSED will spend the next year developing a new NYS core for English Language Arts and Mathematics with the plan to have the new assessments available for the 2011-12 school year.

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Superintendent's Conference Days for 2010-2011

Mr. Kreps said that June 24 and June 25 will be ½ days to make up for the give-back Superintendent's Conference Day. Ms. VanVlack would like some time during those ½ days to introduce and have the faculty at the elementary and high schools complete the technology assessment.

September 7, 2010 will be opening day and the schedule will remain the same as previous years. Bulkeley Middle School will be finishing the last two days with Developmental Designs on October 8, 2010 and November 12, 2010. The District is required to present the training for Right to Know, Blood Borne and Sexual Harassment. These workshops can be used to partially satisfy the required NYSED School Safety Day. The District is planning to add workshops on Bullying and Harassment and Internet Safety to the School Safety Day program. The committee discussed the value in having Sexual Harassment training done face-to-face rather than via cyber-school due to the opportunity for conversation, questions, and anonymous anecdotes that might be helpful to the staff. It was agreed that it is a good idea to switch up how the District delivers the training and Marvin Kreps, the District's Title IX Compliance Officer, will do the presentation.

April 1, 2011's Superintendent's Conference Day will be devoted to technology K-12. It is planned to have a plenary session speaker and breakout sessions covering a variety of topics that would be helpful to teachers.

Technology Plan Development Process and Product

Ms. VanVlack explained that we will be assessing students and staff to learn what current skills they possess in the area of technology and the ISTE standards. Middle school students have been assessed and we are looking to have elementary and high school students assessed as well as staff. The assessment takes about 40-45 minutes. The information gathered will be used to plan professional development and how to more effectively use the technology person from BOCES next year. Ms. VanVlack demonstrated the assessment to the CDEP committee. A short discussion on the difficulty of filtering content and that we need to look at less control (filters) and more monitoring of students. Possibilities for the Superintendent Conference Day devoted to technology will be to have a speaker present on 21st Century Learning, having district wide breakouts taught by our own teachers and/or having a BOCES trainer modeling tools. The Technology Vertical Team will play a significant role in planning that day.

BOE 21st Century Teaching and Learning Goal

Due to time limitations this topic was not discussed.

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Code of Ethics: Sub-committee report

The committee agreed to have the Code of Ethics sub-committee develop a recommendation for the Board of Education. The sub-committee requested clarification regarding how best to proceed in developing the Code of Ethics. The question centered around how to integrate the NYS Code of Ethics for Educators document, BOE Policy, and the Mission, Vision, Core Values to create a Code of Ethics for the District.

Arts in Education: Next Steps?

Mr. Kreps shared the history of the Arts in Education committee. Typically, the District contributed \$20,000, PTSO contributed approximately \$5,000-\$10,000, and additional funds were raised through grants. Questions were raised on how do we leverage Arts to help students? How are Arts used in general?

Ms. Sexton shared an audit from the Kennedy Center Program that engages not just the school but the community. The committee would like to give the survey to determine current perceptions of the Arts. The survey could be used to create partnerships with the community and now would be a good time to make that engagement, given the current budget challenges. Ms. Sexton explained that the District needs to find other ways to keep programs going with funding and/or resources from the community. The tag sale was a big success (raised \$1200 for Arts in Education) because it involved the community. Projects that incorporate what is being taught in the classroom are most effective. Ms. O'Brien shared how time consuming it is to coordinate a program and that Ms. Sexton's help was invaluable in taking care of the details. A listing of resources from the community that can be given to teachers would be useful. Committee agreed to use the audit from the Kennedy Center.

Review of School Climate Initiatives at CLS, BMS, RHS

Mr. Kreps asked the committee whether a school climate survey would be appropriate at this time to get another snapshot of the current climate. The committee agreed to go forward with a survey if it can be worked out financially and time-wise. A good time to give the survey would be October-November or February-March.

Rhinebeck Science Foundation Update: Eco-Initiative

Due to time limitations this topic was not discussed.

SED Initiatives Update

Mr. Kreps explained that New York did not receive Race to the Top funding in round one. NYSED has revised the application and will re-submit in June 2010. Mr. Kreps explained some of the regulations that have changed regarding the APPR and how it will play a major role in future employment decisions, improvement plans for ineffective teachers, and how it will be tied to student achievement.

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2010-2011 Budget

Due to time limitations this topic was not discussed.

Other Items

The committee discussed how to measure student achievement in other ways other than just in state testing and how does the District share these indicators of success with the public. Suggestions that participation numbers in extracurricular activities, clubs, sports, performances, NYSSMA, juried art exhibits, before/after school enrichment programs, summer programs, band, and chorus are some ways that the District can measure success. Ms. Sexton suggested using voter participation data as well as open house attendance data as indicators of community engagement. An alumni section on the website might be beneficial to determine what previous Rhinebeck graduates are doing. Ms. VanVlack suggested celebrating teachers that have attained National Board Certification. The committee discussed the benefit of a school profile on the website with easy access from the main page. The committee agreed that principals submit noteworthy articles from their weekly newsletters to Mr. Phelan for submission to the website. Mr. Kreps will include some of these components in future reports to the Board of Education and future iterations of the Comprehensive District Education Plan.

Meeting was adjourned.