

BROWN COUNTY SCHOOLS
Board of School Trustees - Board Retreat
Tuesday, February 8, 2011, at 9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

The Board of School Trustees of Brown County Schools, Nashville, Indiana, met in a Board Retreat session on Tuesday, February 8, 2011 at the Eagle Park House. Board members present: Carol Bowden, Judy Hardwick, Teresa Waltman and Connie Weddle. Staff members present: David Shaffer, Dennis Goldberg, Debbie Harman, Kelli Bruner, Shane Killinger, Susie Owens, Mike Roane, Matt Stark, Abbie Oliver, Carol Bowden, Al Kosinski, John Emkes and Chrissy Keefauver. John Mills and Lucy McGrayel were absent.

Meeting Called to Order - 9:15 a.m.

Mission & Goals – There was a discussion regarding roles in establishing and incorporating new/revised Mission & Goals statements for individual schools and the District as a whole in light of the AdvancEd accreditation process. The consensus of the Board is that the process should begin with the schools and then come to the Board for approval. The Leadership agreed to discuss this at the building level on February 16, 2011. This information will then go to the AdvancEd Steering Committee and then proceed to the Board for review and approval. Connie Weddle suggested having the approved mission and vision statements posted on the school's website.

Curriculum Discussion – There was a discussion of the current District Assessments and the District Accreditation Process. Each Principal provided an update on the progress their building is making on our three Curriculum initiatives: Balanced Literacy, Mathematics, and Science.

Helmsburg Elementary/Kelli Bruner - Science: They are finding space for science labs; curriculum committees have been formed, and they are looking at textbooks; Helmsburg Elementary School does have an outdoor lab. Balanced Literacy – HES students spend 1 hour per day reading, 1 hour per day writing. The Balanced Literacy initiative at HES is in full swing. HES does need to replenish books. Math: HES students spend 1 hour and 15 minutes daily on math. This time is split between morning and afternoon.

Nashville Elementary/Shane Killinger – Science: Looking forward to a science lab, but they are out of space and Nashville Elementary. Creative options are being considered to accommodate the space requirement for a new science lab. Balanced Literacy: status equivalent to HES. Additionally, NES is incorporating handwriting. Math: NES is “grouping” for math (K-2, 3-5, 6-8).

Sprunica Elementary/Abbie Oliver – Science: Jeff Lepore has a proposal about teaching science all day. Balance Literacy: Activities mirror those at HES and NES. Math: SES is looking closely at ability grouping for 3,5,and 6 grade.

Junior High/Mike Roane – Junior High goals are related to Communication and Problem Solving. Language Arts: Students are very involved in novels and will read 10 – 15 per year.

The JH is looking into the possibility of adding a 2nd computer lab. Additionally, the JH is investigating the option of adding a weight room.

High School/Matt Stark –90% passed Math ECA (If you count certificate track students). Indiana University now has Pre-Cal as an admission requirement. Offering an additional math class will increase the “Academic Honors Diplomas.” 83% passed English ECA, Bible as Literature will be a new elective this Fall. Science: Earth Science will be replaced with Environmental Science this Fall.

Topics Raised by the Board – A brief discussion took place regarding:
Student Discipline and Self-control issues
Current Staff Evaluation – Process and Improvement Interventions

Long Term Planning Discussions –

Balanced School Calendars –

The consensus of the School Board of Trustees was that a Balanced Calendar should not take place for the 2011-2012 Academic year, but they would like to further consider a Balanced Calendar for the 2012-2013 Academic year. More discussion opportunities will be coordinated.

Budget Status Updates –

We continue to function with a General fund that is structurally in balance. We do not expect to cut positions and programs. We will evaluate positions as they come open and consider cost reduction measures as they become available. We expect an additional pupil enrollment decline in 2011-2012. We are facing a permanent state funding reduction of approximately \$675,000 annually due to the state revenue shortfalls. Last Spring’s State General Fund reductions have been built into the State Basic Grant.

Staffing for 2011-2012 –

We do not expect to offer a Retirement Incentive in 2011.

We need to consider the fact that Nashville Elementary is currently using all of its rooms which prevents us from expanding Pre-school and limits our ability to add a Science Laboratory Classroom.

We further want to consider expansion of Pre-school Learning opportunities. We are currently turning away students who do not qualify for special education status but want to enroll in Pre-school. Discussion included how we could accomplish this within existing buildings.

We discussed projected enrollment for the 2011-2012 school year.

We discussed projected multi-grade arrangements for 2011-2012.

We discussed other staffing needs and reconfigurations and different assignment potentials for 2011-2012.

We discussed Buildings and Grounds improvements and projected and necessary projects for the coming year.

Adjournment – There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.