

RSU 19
Education Committee Minutes
Tuesday, October 4, 2016
6:30 pm. Nokomis Library

Members Present: Ken Sands, Samantha Brown, Susie Hopkins, Robin McNeil, Don Mendell, Chad Stratton

Members Absent: Paul Carter, Winn Price

I. **Public Comment** - None

- II. **Guidance Presentation** - Leilani Cyr gave a student led presentation on college entrance/admissions process requirements as they relate to the Extra-Curricular activities. Thomas, EMCC, Husson, Orono, Maine Maritime Academy, The University of Maine, and Georgetown University admissions were consulted for her information. The top four (4) things schools of higher education look for are: 1) Well rounded students, 2) Grade Point Average, 3) Employment prior to college, 4) Student Aptitude Test. Based on Bowdoin College Admissions process; students who participate in extracurricular activities including dance, drama, clubs, groups, athletics, have part time employment, and other civic involvement move up in the applicant pool based on participation in a well-rounded school experience. At Georgetown University one of our students was selected based on a “unique course selection and quality of her essay”. Skills schools are looking for are; initiative, time management, leadership, and the ability to collaborate. We teach these things in our programs at Nokomis.

Maintaining our extracurricular offerings is important. At the high school teachers will try to help find a way to make a club or group happen if there is enough interest. The list of options was stated as well as some new clubs like an engineering club. It is important to have the right advisor for the activity to be sustained and successful. It might be helpful to do a survey to see how many of our student are participating in an extracurricular activity or have over the course of their high school career.

Admissions process is becoming more competitive and we need to prepare our students for the rigor that is to come. Presently, 42% of career require an associate's degree or higher and that figure rises to 55% by 2020.

Schools are moving to an extracurricular participation requirement in order to give their students the competitive advantage and the benefits of participation.

- III. **Drama/Show Choir Presentation** - Lisa Neal presented on her program indicating the classes she instructs during the day and the number of student she teaches over the course of the day, presently 100 or so. Stagecraft has been a new addition to Theatre I and II, and several other electives. Stage Craft meets the needs of the students that may not want to be in the bright lights; however, want to be involved. Students design, build, problem solve and use other lifelong skills in this class to support the presentations, it has been a success.

Many students presented at the meeting indicating the impact participating in Drama or Show Choir has had on their lives. Alyssa Stankaniz, Makenzie Sands, Lacey McDonald and Kayla Cosmo spoke eloquently regarding the transformation they have experienced through participation in an activity that they may not have chosen when all things are considered.

Students develop critical thinking, public speaking, problem solving, and develop confidence as was clearly articulated through student comments in writing or presented to the Committee.

The department is working on a grant to build 4 to 5 life size puppets. This has been a cross curricular endeavors with the Anatomy, Visual Arts, and Stagecraft working together to build the prototype puppet. Mr. Sands has been mentoring some of the students. With the development of the first puppet, Ms. Neal will know what to put into the grant for equipment and supplies.

Ms. Neal commended the forethought of the past board/administration in creating the drama, show chorus programs. Current and former students have benefited in numerous ways from being involved.

- IV. The 2016 **NWEA and SAT** data was presented by the administrative team. There is a variety of data presented and many ways to use the information. The SAT is a new version and a conversion for cut off score has not been determined by the Department of Education as of yet. The NWEA is a diagnostic tool to inform instruction and not a great tool to use for comparison of a school over time. We use it to create content area groupings of students and to individual student growth goals. It was stated that further professional development would be helpful for the teachers.

Chad Stratton asked if/how it was going to be budgeted for in the future without TIF. Mike Hammer indicated that it needs to be a budget item and held as a non-negotiable tool that we use with our teachers.

Ellen Surprenant indicated that this is not a true way to gauge student or school success; we used to use interior measurements and this is better, but to be taken with a cautious approach.

Don Mendell indicated his frustration with the minutes not being on the web site. Samantha indicated that they were in the last board packet. Mike Hammer will work to get the minutes on the site as soon as possible. Minutes are not posted to the web site until the following month, after the Board meeting where Board minutes are approved and Committee minutes are reviewed by the full Board, to be sure that accurate information is posted.

V. **Discuss/Planning and Goals for Ed. Committee and Curriculum**

Mike Hammer indicated that he had met with Curriculum Steering Committee and would like to see that Committee and the District Steering Committee build some goals and show them to the Education Committee in order to continue the work they have started. The work is a “work in progress” and won’ be “done”. Sherri Gould is the Curriculum Steering Committee Chair, not the curriculum coordinator.

VI. **Other**

Ken Sands asked how the Education Committee could support the budget vote and how the members could go to their towns in order to work together. Also, the Budget and Education Committees could work together.

The Committee had a short budget discussion.

VII. **Items for next meeting**

- a. Students not in school
- b. Alternative Education
- c. Kindergarten Jumpstart

Don Mendall asked how we present biblical information in content area classes. Could there be a presentation on the biblical information and its relation to the underpinning of Western Civilization and or some reference to how teachers present connections scripture to students. This was in relation to some of the material drama students were studying through script reading that they then could relate to much better in content/traditional education classes.

VII. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Hammer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Hammer
Superintendent of Schools