

Education Committee Minutes
December 6, 2016
Nokomis Library

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

Excused: Winn Price

Administration: Mary Nadeau, Ellen Surprenant, Lori Merrow, Don Roux, Mike Hammer

Others: Friends and Family of JROTC, National Honor Society

I. Recognition in the Gym

Meeting began in the gym for the pre-season basketball game and recognition of the National Honor Society inductees.

II. Public Comment - None

III. Stories of Success

The Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp presented arms and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Officer Zach Ellis gave an overview of the program.

The National Honor Society, under the leadership of President Laura Freudenberger and Advisor Lisa Kelly, presented the tenets of the society. The new members read the oath and were presented the pin they will wear during graduation ceremonies.

Ms. Nadeau presented sugar cookies to the Committee on behalf of the life skills students and Kim Barkac. She discussed a few of the events relating to students during the winter schedule. She also mentioned Deborah Richardson was interviewed by WLBZ and was awarded the weekly inspiring educator from the MEA.

Ellen Surprenant celebrated the implementation of the “units of study in writing” current curriculum work across the district. She presented a student writing sample as an example of the students/teachers using the strategies in writing

teachers have been learning about. She also thanked the Board for the multiple opportunities for professional development connected to the instruction on writing. Corinna is also thankful for the ongoing support of District Literacy Coach Kelly Burns for her work in modeling, facilitating, and supporting teachers in the literacy areas. It was noted that we are taking advantage of “local talent” for this and using the people we have invested in to do this work.

Lori Merrow echoed Ellen’s celebration and added the benefits Newport Elementary teachers have seen with the consistent use of the “units of study”. NES has also had some family math nights with some success; it is important to support parents with any new approaches we may have for math instruction. She also mentioned the effectiveness of consistency in the music program and the wonderful turnout for the holiday concert.

Don Roux explained some of the exciting things Somerset has been doing including holding a mock election where all the students went to the town hall to vote. His school also has a focus on a “sense of community” where the students recognize those in need and work to be responsible citizens in their building as well as the larger local community. He is working on Panther Communication through a website www.tinyurl.com/somersetpanthers which has other stories of success.

It was mentioned that the district must focus on the websites and all forms of media to get its messages out. Hopefully, we will involve students as much as possible in this process.

IV. Purpose of the Education Committee

Robin gave the definition in the committee description document sent to all Board members when they are choosing which committees they would like to serve on each year.

There was lengthy discussion on the content, skills, character elements, and instructional theory taking place in our schools. Also the role the Education Committee has in relation to this discussion. It was determined to take a look at the specifics of one content area (Social Studies) and to see the progression of instruction, topics covered, skills, content, etc., and to see how the Committee work applies to the determination of the specifics of the material.

V. **Budget Committee and Education Committee Meeting Together**

It was determined that the Administrative Team and Superintendent would begin working on the 2017 - 2018 budget and the two Committees would get together as needed. Two programs that the Committees support allocating resources toward are Kindergarten JumpStart and Alternative Education.

VI. **Other** - None

VII. **Items for Next Agenda**

Kelly Burns and teachers regarding Coaching, Social Studies content discussion, and further discussion of purpose of the Committee.

VIII. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Hammer
Superintendent of Schools