

Unified School District 417
District Academic Council Meeting
April 14, 2010

Present: Kelly Gentry, Jean Dingler, Jean Johnson, Joe Buchanan, Cynthia Schrader, Kathy Switzer, Diane Miller, Kelly McDiffett, Ken England, Judy Parks, Sherry Edmiston, Marsha Tischhauser, Dave Watkins (not present 9:00-10:00), Patricia Schroeder, Cindy Schultz (arrived 8:45), Lori Pollock, Sue Shoemaker, TinaRae Scott, Marita Bachura, Becky Hiebert, Deb Andres, Linda Pretzer, Shelia Eskeldson and Rachel Tompkins.

Welcome: Kelly Gentry opened the meeting at 8:03 a.m. The February 10, 2010 minutes were reviewed and approved. Deb Andres asked about the 1003(a) grant mentioned in the minutes, Kelly said that we were approved and we have received the money.

**Long Range
Plan:**

DAC had been waiting on word from the state regarding their state standard revision schedule in order to revise our Long Range Plan. KSDE finally released a statement on March 10, 2010 concerning the Common Core standards. *"The Kansas State Assessments for the 2010-11 school year will continue to measure the current content standards. KSDE has received questions regarding assessments of the Common Core Standards in 2010-11. To date, no decision has been made to adopt the Common Core Standards in Kansas. Additionally, the Common Core Standards themselves have not been finalized. KSDE is operating under the assumption that any assessment measuring the Common Core Standards (which again are not complete and have not been adopted in Kansas) is at least four years away. KSDE is basing this assumption on recent discussions with national testing experts that comprise its Technical Advisory Council."*

Due to the Common Core not coming as soon as we had anticipated, Kelly Gentry handed out two versions of the Long Range Plan. The first (with gray shading) showed an accurate record of what has happened in years 06-07 through 09-10. The second proposed version begins with 09-10 and goes through 17-18. There was much discussion over the proposed Long Range Plan. DAC approved the April 14 version. Kelly will see that the Long Range Plan is taken to the Board of Education for final approval. The noncore areas of the Plan will be completed next year when we know more about the budget situation.

It was also noted that the Kansas State Board of Education has decided not to pursue federal education funds through the Race to the Top competition. Kansas had participated in the first round, but was not successful.

Kelly Gentry also handed out the OTL Assessment schedule for History-Government and Writing 2010-2014. In 2010-2011, juniors will have the option to take half or all of the History/Government assessment. The state Writing assessment will be postponed until 2012-2013. DAC would like a writing study group to be formed in our district for 10-11 and would also like for our district to be involved in the state pilot writing assessment, if there is one.

SAC Reports –

Math: Kelly G. reported that there would be math staff development next year for K-5 teachers. She also reported that a math diagnostic instrument will be ordered and we are still considering when to officially begin MTSS for math. Project SPOT is supposed to release the Intervention Resources recommended for math this summer.

Reading: Resources for Tiers 2 & 3 have been ordered and are in, except for Read Naturally.

Language

Arts: Kelly reported that there will be staff development time for scoring local writing assessment in the schedule next year.

Science: Some minor changes were found during this validation year and they will be made to the original curriculum. Kelly will update the website.

Social Studies: The SS SAC will meet June 7-11 for summer SAC. The SAC will align our SS curriculum as well as work on integrating reading indicators into the SS curriculum. This will be funded with the 1003(a) grant.

Academic Technical ED (CTE): Kelly reminded DAC that two career pathways for Agriculture have been approved for our district. Now it is Business that must choose a Pathway. Marita Bachura shared information on two possible Pathways for Business Ed.: Marketing Communication or Business Management & Administration. Several DAC members had positive comments about the Business Management & Administration pathway. Marita will meet with her advisory committee and the decision must be made and have state approval by March 15, 2011.

MS Technology Classes focus for 2010-2011 will be Keyboarding, Computer Applications and Career Pipeline. When the current MS Technology modules die they will not be replaced. After the HS Pathway is chosen, a grades 6-12 Business/Tech SAC needs to meet.

New Resources will be ordered for Accounting, none for Agriculture.

Health-PE: Amy Finch and Ryan Small have been working during PLC time to update the Physical Education curriculum. They are to be commended for the work they have done on their own in this area during PLC time.

Required HS Credits: Kelly Gentry handed out an updated "USD 417 HS Required Credits." Please replace old with the new. PE/Health is now 1 credit giving Electives 8.5 credits (or 8 for 2012 graduates on). Under Board of Regents KS Scholars, it is required now to have 2 Foreign Language, not recommended. Computer Applications has been removed from both Qualified Admissions and KS Scholars. There was discussion over raising our 24 minimum credits but many reasons for not doing so were shared.

Improvement Activities: The 1003(a) was used to mostly fund substitutes and to pay teacher stipends for activities tied to our Improvement Plan. Other than reading and math, action steps that fall under the Instructional Support Goal are:

- Walkthroughs involving teachers
- Evaluation instrument revision
- Researching instructional coaches

The spring benchmark window will be completed for the first time this month for all students K-12 with screening and diagnostic using AIMSweb and MAP (grades 6-12)! Intervention groups will be formed for August 2010 from this data. This is a major accomplishment and Kelly thanked all teachers and principals for the tremendous work it has taken to get to this point.

Preliminary AYP data from state assessments will be available from the state on May 4th for reading and math. Kelly will send this information out to DAC at that time.

Building Reports: **CGES:** Judy Parks reported that recently they had two music concerts. PTO donated a new sound system and it made such a positive difference. Many volunteer activities that are important to our students go through PTO.

CGMS: Sherry Edmiston reported that AIMSweb testing is this week and MAP testing is next week. Track is well on its way. May 6th is Rachel's challenge at the High School stadium.

PHES and PHMS: Cynthia Schrader mentioned that PHMS is finished with state assessments and the PHES 4th graders will be finished next week. Track is in full swing. PTO donated a new scoreboard to PHMS. She also spoke of the good works that PTO does for students in her buildings.

CGHS: Kelly McDiffett reported that everything is fixed and they have lots of time on their hands at the High School. (joke!) Sophomores take the state assessments for reading and math later this spring. He went over the science assessments that will be taken by freshmen, sophomores, and juniors yet this spring as well. A pre-prom assembly will be tomorrow.

PDC/Staff Development: Kelly Gentry mentioned that PDC is undergoing a revision at the state level. She will keep us informed as the new system is implemented statewide.

Kelly also provided DAC members with "Priorities in a Blueprint for Reform" from the U.S. Department of Education. This is the outline of the reauthorization of ESEA. If you would like to see the complete Blueprint let her know.

Board of Education Report: Linda Pretzer wanted DAC know that the staff reduction process was very painful, very hard, and unwanted. Diane Miller gave an update on the HS project; she said the project is ahead of schedule for the deadline in August. They will start laying the high school gym floor in the next couple of weeks. She also shared about that we moved a Title I staff member to a classroom and will have a Title III teacher next year as part of our Title program. The Title III position has to be held by someone who has a K-12 ESL endorsement. This position will help generate some money back into our Title funds as the ESL students served receive weighted funding.

Information to/from Community: TinaRae Scott mentioned that several local foundations have grant money that our schools could access. Applications are available at Emprise Bank, Darrel Bryant's office, and Farmers and Drivers Bank. Deb Andres wanted to let us know that a task force committee has been formed up north and explained the reasons for it being formed. There was much discussion about parent and community volunteers.

Planning for Next Year:

DAC will meet every other month on the second Wednesday. Dates for 2010-2011 are: October 13, December 8, February 9, and April 13.

DAC membership for 2010-2011:

Joe Buchanan, Shelia Eskeldson, Patricia Schroeder and Deb Andres have agreed to renew their terms and will continue to serve on DAC. Kelly thanked all of them for their continued service. She reminded DAC that a member can "resign" from DAC before the end of a term.

Jean Dingler will not be returning on DAC next year; Kelly thanked her for the time that she has given the committee. Kelly announced that Pam Smith would be taking Jean's position as the representative from CGMS.

Cindy Schultz is retiring and will not be returning next year; Kelly mentioned that Cindy would be greatly missed. The position Cindy has held is now open; those that would be qualified to fill the position would be a librarian, counselor, Title I or Title III staff member. Kelly will notify those staff members to see if any of them are interested in serving on DAC.

Next Meeting:

The May 5th meeting was cancelled. Kelly Gentry will email the preliminary data from state assessments to the DAC members. The next meeting will be October 13, 2010.