

**Beaver Dam Unified School District
Board of Education Minutes**

Planning Committee Meeting

April 17, 2017

A meeting of the Planning Committee of the Beaver Dam Unified School District Board of Education was held on the above date at the Educational Service Center at 6:30 p.m. Board members present: Bev Beal-Loeck, Jim Jansen, Marge Jorgensen, John Kraus, Jr., Laura Lerwick, Lisa Panzer, Chad Prieve, Gary Spielman, and Joanne Tyjeski. Administration present: Mark DiStefano, Director of Human Resources, Sandra Garbowicz, Director of Teaching and Learning, Laura Maron, Washington Elementary School Principal, Steve Vessey, Superintendent, and Anne-Marie Woznicki, Director of Business Services.

The committee received a report on healthcare carrier options. Staff are not satisfied with current plan options and are open to a carrier change. Limiting cost impact is of high value to staff. Dean is currently at an 8.9% increase and Unity is at equal cost. The cost to employees for Dean would increase up to \$405 and with Unity the cost could decrease or could increase up to \$15. Unity may require provider changes. The decision to move to a single plan, either low or high deductible rather than both, is pending. Having both options is currently working against the district. Unity may offer a possible rate cap for the 3rd year, or some cost savings currently. The timeline for decision-making was discussed, including presenting a recommendation to the board for action on May 8th.

The committee received an update on the Blue Zones Project. Washington Elementary School is working towards Blue Zones certification. Many of the items on the list are already being done and Ms. Maron is working with the Blue Zones staff to confirm what is being done meets their standards. Workplace certification is in the preliminary stages. This fits in with the Wellness KPO.

Curriculum and course changes for the 2017-18 school year were presented to the committee. New high school classes include AP Computer Science, Principles of Biomedical Science, SEAS (social, emotional, and academic skills) class for students needing this in their IEP and it might be offered to a larger group of students next year. Discussed exploring the possibility of having other students enrolled as mentors. Greenhouse and Contemporary Literature will be split into semesters for more flexibility. There will be several new STEM classes in all grades at the Middle School. There will be a new online FFA option for grades 7 and 8. Adjustments are also being made to the 7th grade electives in Computer Technology and Family and Consumer Science. At the elementary level, there will be a new version of FOSS kits (science) and Handwriting Without Tears will be used for grades 4K-1, with a switch to Zaner Bloser for cursive writing in grades 2-5. A firm decision hasn't been made for grades 4 and 5.

The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for May 15th.

Minutes submitted by Laura Lerwick, Committee Chair.