Beaver Dam Unified School District Board of Education Minutes

Planning Committee Meeting

August 19, 2013

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, Chad Prieve, Gary Spielman and Joanne Tyjeski. Administration present: Bob Avery, Director of Business Services, Mark DiStefano, High School Principal, and Steve Vessey, Superintendent.

Mr. Vessey provided an update on the strategic planning process. He contacted Joe Schroeder, a facilitator from the Association of Wisconsin School Administrators (AWSA), who is experienced with working with districts. He will be sure the process is genuine and will build a base by surveying the community, students and parents. Mr. Vessey will review the updated timeline and solidify the process with Mr. Schroeder. There was discussion regarding the survey process and who is available and interested in which part of the work. Mr. Vessey asked board members to give him names of community members or parents who might be interested in participating in the process.

Mr. DiStefano revisited the proposal for Physical Education credit to comply with statute, which is permissive. There are approximately 15-20% of schools currently doing this. He reviewed a number of considerations and recommended a very proscriptive policy that clearly delineates what is in and what is not, in terms of what activities are allowed. Mr. Vessey pointed out that the students most likely to apply are high achieving students who want the additional core subject area courses. There is minimal, if any, impact in staffing as the numbers are minimal. The consensus is to bring it to the full Board for approval and return to committee to review the process.

Mr. Vessy presented a proposal for electronic board and committee meetings. He shared two options: a laptop solution and an iPad solution. The District has the IT infrastructure in place to implement it without going to a third-party vendor. Documents could be stored "on the cloud" and may be non-printable. There was discussion regarding laptops versus iPads. There was also concern about whether the board should have electronic devices when students don't all have access to them. The Planning Committee will report out to the full board for further discussion to build consensus.

The next Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for September 16th at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Marge Jorgensen, Committee Chair.