

WORK STUDY MEETING MINUTES – BOARD OF EDUCATION
 REDFORD UNION SCHOOLS, DISTRICT NO. 1
 January 28, 2008

Work Study Meeting
 1/28/08

A work study meeting of the Redford Union Board of Education was held January 28, 2008, in the Library at Redford Union High School, 17711 Kinloch, Redford Township, Michigan, 48240. President Gubachy called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

I. Call to Order

Present: Brenner, Caloia, Calvert, Gubachy, Isabell, Pytel, Kincer

II. Roll Call

Absent: Wujcik

MOVED by Pytel, seconded by Isabell to adopt the agenda of the January 28, 2008 work study session as amended to include a student reinstatement recommendation. Ayes: All. Motion: Carried.

III. Adoption of
 Agenda

A. MOVED by Isabell, seconded by Pytel that student SH06-13 be reinstated as of 1/29/08. Ayes: All. Motion: Carried.

IV. Discussion

MOVED by Isabell, seconded by Calvert to adjourn work study meeting until posted start time of 6:30 p.m. Ayes: All. Motion: Carried.

President Gubachy called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

B. Karen Moran, Principal of Redford Union welcomed the Board of Education and distributed folders with the current curriculum guide, credit requirements, and miscellaneous information to assist students and parents. The discussion tonight will be of things that are currently done at the high school and possibilities for the further success of the high school.

Rich Evans, Assistant Principal of Redford Union educated the Board of Education regarding the Freshman Focus that brand new this year at Redford Union High Schools. Two counselors and the assistant principal attended a conference in Novi about model high schools. Statistics show that grades improved, attendance improved and behavior improved. Teachers, Counselors and Administrators brainstormed to develop a Freshman Focus for the incoming 9th grade students. Mr. Evans commended the staff that were truly committed to the program. Mr. Evans' highlighted the media coverage of the Detroit Free Press and presented the statistics of the current 9th graders regarding, tardies, attendance, passing and failing classes as compared to the previous year.

Mrs. Moran spoke about the instructional teams that work with the 9th grade students. Students feel more comfortable going to a 9th grade teacher when faced with an issue. Mrs. Moran spoke of the success of the teams and wants to explore the expansion of the teams for 10th grade students next year.

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Mrs. Moran spoke of the redesign of special education. The teachers that will be impacted are the general education teachers. It is suggested that special education students are placed in general education classes and follow the curriculum of the general education student. There is a 9th grade learning center open throughout the day for help in all core subjects. A service team has been identified and each student will be evaluated and instructional strategies will be developed to work with each student prior to placing the student in special education. There are a lot of things being looked at where co-teaching or team teaching might be instituted to provide the environment needed for student success.

There is a desire to develop advanced placement classes in Biology, U.S. History, Chemistry, and Government. These courses are being reviewed and instructional staff are committed to rigorous requirements to teach such courses if there is sufficient student enrollment.

Roni Travis, Assistant Principal of Redford Union High School spoke about the repeater sessions currently offered in the second semester. These courses include: four Algebra, one Global Insights, two Civics, two English, two Geo-Physical, and two Biology. In addition there will be four Plato courses that can be taken online for credit. Redford Union High School Administration is recommending that each student be allowed one repeater course at the district's cost to decrease drop out rates. The other option is a two tier schedule of classes with repeater courses as part of an extended day.

Mrs. Travis spoke on the diversity training that took place at Redford Union in 2003 under a grant secured by Diane Scott. The program was called a "World of Difference" and sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League. The grant is not available every year and due to the lack of funding the program is not taking place this year. Mrs. Travis spoke of "Challenge Day" which works to breakdown the walls of separation and make students realize that we are all the same. The vision of the program was to create a world that all children feel safe, loved and celebrated. The cost is approximately \$6,000 that could be shared between two buildings.

Mrs. Travis spoke regarding the AYP, the State tracks how well schools meet state requirements. Six factors make up the requirements of AYP: latest MEAP scores, yearly improvement on the MEAP, parent involvement, teacher quality and development, graduation rate, and attendance rate. In the past only students preparing to go to college would prepare and take the ACT. Today all students are expected to take the ACT and not all students are taking the classes needed to be prepared to take the test.

Next year the high school would like to have Leadership Seminars. Administrators would like to eliminate home room completely. By participating in the leadership counsel a student would be able to earn a social studies or civics credit.

Mrs. Hurst took over the media center at Redford Union this fall. Mrs. Hurst's goal is to support and promote information literacy for the student population. Information literacy is the ability to find and understand information. Students don't have access to information in the format that mirrors the real world. We need a more modern information media center.

Mrs. Moran presented the literacy component. There were 66 freshmen identified as reading at a 6th grade level putting them at risk for failure at the high school level. It is felt that assessments and literacy classes are critical for student success.

Mrs. Moran stressed the use of student data and test data for item analysis and class analysis. Transfer data into a useful tool that teachers can use as a positive when evaluating student success. Data driven dialogue gives specifics when looking at student achievement.

To close the study session a media clip was shown called "Ducks Can't Go to Eagle School".

MOVED by Caloia, seconded by Calvert to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m. Ayes all. Motion carried

V. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Cozette Calvert, Secretary
Redford Union Board of Education