



HCP Advisory Committee - Minutes

Wednesday, February 28, 2024 | 3:30-5:00pm | District Office

Members Present: Kelli Cox, Debbie Crabtree, Trisha Doumit, Jennifer Hamilton, Susan Horstman, Roberta Kramer, Paula Perron-Bates

Members Absent: Pam Brantner, Grace Grow, Carone Jones, Shelley Opgenorth

3:32 PM- Roberta Kramer called the meeting to order.

Meeting Minutes

Review of Minutes from December 13, 2023

Highly Capable Program Mission Statement Presentation

- The report began with a discussion about program goals and creation of a program mission statement that articulates with the district's Pullman Promise. The three main goals for the HCP program include Teacher Support, Connect & Advocate for Highly Capable Students, Connect with Parents/Families. She continued with this identification of HCP programs elements aligning with the six cultural beliefs characterizing the Pullman Promise, Mutual Respect, Build Together, Shared Decisions, Cultivate Trust, Take Action, and Students First.
- This information will be shared with teachers and administrators for feedback.

Professional Development

- The TOSA attended the *Whitworth 2024 Spring Virtual Institute: Identification for What? Aligning Services & Assessments for HiCap Learners* over the month of February. This was worthwhile and informative about current practices.
- HCP student classroom assessment data is used to help guide teacher training. While teachers request training on math, the data would suggest additional support in ELA might be prioritized. The TOSA would like to see goal-based training for teachers informed by the data. She suggests beginning in fall with a larger group training course that would be followed by smaller meetings or trainings throughout the year. At the end of the year, re-evaluate the student data for evaluation of growth.
- In response to how training groups could be created, a committee member offered that the grades 3-5 curriculum is similar, and teachers of these grades could form one group, but it could be possible to offer grade 5 training separately. The assistant superintendent suggests this plan be put into the annual highly capable program and contribution of curriculum. It was cautioned to be aware of costs associated with all day professional development opportunities.

Connecting with Classrooms/Connecting with Families

- The TOSA is committed to connecting with and advocating for kids. A goal for her role is to be in every room with every kid at least once this year and believes doing so connects both students and families with the highly capable program.
- She suggests meeting with families at three different points in a student's enrollment with the district to help foster connection with the program. For example, a meeting after spring referral and initial program placement, then again with 5th graders moving into middle school, and again with 8th graders moving into the high school.
 - The committee discussed the TOSA connecting with the schools regarding the needs of these students. There was a recommendation to set clear communication with principals and teachers why the TOSA would be having parent meetings. However, the proposal of TOSA and parent meeting was well received as the TOSA could be a common thread for families to connect with the program throughout the years. Also, having meetings at the district office would be a good setting.

- She provided her evaluation of data for the Smarter Balance ELA writing that supports a focus on training around ELA. She noted that the highly capable students did fine on conventions, but observed there is opportunity for improvement on the remaining two parts.
- The next newsletter to families will be in March.

High School Courses

- There was discussion about the current 9th grade honors biology as well as the addition of an ELA honors model. The committee discussed there are course opportunities for highly capable students, although, students do not always take those opportunities. A committee member added that honors classes sometimes entail doubling the workload rather than necessarily adding more complex material. Upon hearing this may be the situation for a course, students will opt out of honors courses because are dividing their time with other activities.
- The committee agreed there needs to be differentiation between the honors from the main course offering, but also a careful evaluation of the criteria for the differentiation. Further, there is a need to ensure calibration of material to ensure it is grade appropriate. The committee would like a look at calibration of the 9th grade honors biology course. They also see an honors level offering for ELA.
- In addition to honors courses, the high school offers AP courses beginning in the sophomore year, running start for students moving into their junior year, as well as college in the high school. It was suggested the TOSA can provide an explanation of these opportunities to students and families. This would include when they are offered as well as these courses being an opt in choice by the student rather than enrolled by the school.

Parent night

- The parent night will be on April 18th at Lincoln Middle School and the announcement will be posted on Parent Square.

Review Highly Capable Program policy and procedures 2190

- There is an update in the procedure to the membership of the placement selection committee that was submitted to the school board packet as an informational item. The change will be from all school psychologists serving on the committee to a school psychologist. This change is based on feedback from the School Directors' association.

Program Spring Referral

- There was a brief discussion regarding the requirement of the universal screener for program placement and if that would affect frequency of screening. The universal screener policy requires that schools universally screen in or before the second grade and again in or before leaving elementary, either fifth or sixth grade. The Pullman School District will universally screen each year and all students. This is above what the state expectations for screening.

The next meeting will be on May 15th.

4:21 adjourned