

PERRY TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

Perry Schools Discussion Notes

February 26, 2015

EC Room 210, 4:10PM:-5:00PM (Approximate Time)

ATTENDANCE

Administration: Kevin Albright (PMHS), Barb Brouwer (SHS), Rhonda Jones-Jointer (EC), Robert Bohannon (EC), Vicki Carpenter (EC), , Frank Giles (EC), Rolland Abraham (PMHS), David Henriott (RPE), Dave Rohl (PMMS), Whitney Wilkowski (ALE), and Matt Willey (EC)

PEA: Neil Linville (PMHS), Danielle Brooking (PMA), Kyle Hanefeld (GV), Matt Henninger (PMHS), Mark Madden (ALE), Nancy Tatum(PA), Diane Turpen (PMHS), Cathy Cullison (SHS), and Sue Buscemi (WV)

One-to-One Devices & Chromebook Student Usage Policy

Kyle Hanefeld expressed concern about students taking high stakes tests such as ISTEP on the Chromebooks/one-to-one devices. The screens are small and students sometimes must scroll through several screens to read one problem. Matt Willey, as well as the Indiana Board of Education, has expressed the same concern. According to Mr. Willey, McGraw-Hill, ISTEP provider, states that as long as students are using devices that meet their guidelines, the test should be valid. The Chromebooks meet McGraw-Hill's communicated specifications.

Currently, grades 3-8 and Southport High School have Chromebooks/one-to-one devices. Also, 850 students at Perry Meridian High School have Chromebooks with more being added next year by the Technology Department.

Technology (issues with Outlook)

Many teachers have been frustrated by Outlook closing out on them repeatedly. Matt Willey stated that the PTS Outlook server has been working at capacity to handle emails and is overwhelmed at times causing the service disruptions. Staff members moving to Gmail will help alleviate this problem.

While the vision is for all staff members to use Gmail in place of Outlook eventually, Matt Willey has offered for staff to voluntarily switch to Gmail, which has been well received. Help for those converting to Gmail is posted under the "How to" tab on the Perry Township Schools website and will be mailed to teachers in their Gmail "welcome" email.

PMHS Bell Schedule Proposal

Rolland Abraham is seeking approval for a new modified daily schedule at Perry Meridian High School for the 2015-16 school year. The Vision Task Force, a committee of PMHS teachers, staff, and Mr. Abraham, held discussions with teachers about what they want from a daily schedule, crafted a schedule based on staff input, and then received input on the proposed

schedule. According to Mr. Abraham, written responses concerning the schedule and conversations suggest that over half of the staff are in favor of trying the proposed schedule. Mr. Abraham plans to gain approval to implement the schedule at Monday's School Board meeting.

Legislative Update

Neil Linville encourages all in our school community to keep abreast of the Indiana legislative actions as many drastic changes are being made in Indiana education are being made very quickly. Notably, HB 500 has pass the House of Representatives and moves to the Senate. Visit the Indiana General Assembly website to stay informed of current action on bills affecting schools: <http://iga.in.gov/legislative/2015/session/home/> .

Neil Linville publicly recognizes Perry Township Administration for their willingness to listen to teachers and to discuss challenges and issues in a respectful manner with PEA representatives. This is not the case in many Indiana school corporations.

Substitute Teachers

Principals have communicated the difficulties in finding enough substitute teachers. Rhonda Jones-Jointer has interviewed principals to determine if there are specific trends in teacher absences: Mondays, Fridays, and days before breaks.

Currently, Perry Township Schools (PTS) uses Aesop, a company that manages substitute teachers. The Aesop fill rate for PTS is around 64% while some surrounding school districts use Kelly Services. Rhonda Jones-Jointer had a first meeting with representatives from Kelly Services, who promise closer to 90% fill rate. Kelly recruits, employs, schedules and manages substitute teachers, paraprofessionals, and teacher's aides who are their employees.

PEA representatives questioned how much influence teachers and building administration would have over substitute placement in their buildings. Jones-Jointer assured all present that Kelly Services listens to input from the buildings.

Next PEA meeting Thursday, April 23, at 4PM in EC 210.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Turpen