

## PERRY TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

### PEA Discussion Notes

February 23, 2017

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

#### ATTENDANCE

Administration: Rolland Abraham (PMHS), Bob Bohannon (PTEC), Vickie Carpenter (PTEC), David Henriott (RPE), Rhonda Jones-Jointer (PTEC), Brian Knight (SHS), John Ralston (PMA), and Whitney Wilkowski (ALE)

PEA: Steve Dawson (PMHS), Kyle Hanefeld (GV), Matt Henninger (PMHS), Neil Linville (PEA), Mark Madden (ALE), Dan Oblon (WV), Rebecca Rissel (GV), and Diane Turpen (PMHS)

#### Elementary Special Areas 2017-18

At a recent principal's meeting, principals discussed the use of special area teachers' time next year in elementary buildings. The current schedule is built for six sections during the day. With kindergarten moving to the Kindergarten Academies, elementary special area teachers will have an additional time slot without students. Principals discussed having special area teachers "push in" to classrooms to help with reading and math during the extra time. Special area teachers would not be evaluated outside of their content area and would not be evaluated during "push in" time. Students will not see a decrease in the amount of time in special area classes that they currently have at this time.

Dan Oblon, physical education teacher at WV, stated that he sees the additional time as an opportunity for students to have more exposure to specials. He proposed that elementaries offer 55 minute special area classes so that students would have more time in the experiential learning environments of Art, Music, and Physical Education. He stated that research supports that students should spend more time, not less time, in special area classes. Also, the community expressed strong support of elementary specials when Perry Township Schools faced budget cuts in the past.

How will decisions about the use of this time be made? Administration stated that no decisions have been made and they are not creating mandates. They will begin speaking with PEA as well as getting input from teachers and principals. The needs of the students in each building will be examined. All parties will need to look at the school as a whole and make decisions based on how best to support student needs.

At some elementary buildings, the way specials are scheduled affects the total amount of time students are exposed to art, music and physical education. Some elementaries organize specials on a specific day of the week; while some have a rotation. By not rotating, special area classes lose time with kids due to frequent breaks on Mondays and Fridays.

Neil Linville stated that teachers should voice their opinions and the administrators need to have further discussions. Teachers and administrators may not have foreseen all of the effects caused by the opening of the Kindergarten Academies. Communication and collaboration will be important in finding solutions.

### **Teacher Day Times for 2017-18 School Year**

Vickie Carpenter stated that Administration wants input from staff, teachers, and principals at each tier about the teacher day. Both Administration and PEA leadership recognized that not all personnel will be pleased with the changes. Administration expects to set the time for the teacher day soon.

Factors that need to be considered with the new schedules are Cluster times for each building and effects on school clubs and sports. At PMA, students have a flex period covered by aides before academic courses while teachers attend cluster. At the high school level, Clusters have been offered before (starting at 6:25 a.m.) and after school (starting at 2:10 p.m.). High school teachers usually have had a choice of Cluster time due to having more Master Teachers than other buildings.

Neil Linville stated that the new schedule is not extending the day, but just shifting it. The contractual day is 7 hours 45 minutes. Mr. Bohannon echoed this.

### **EL and SPED Teacher Movement Due to Opening of Kindergarten Academies**

Because of the fall opening of the Kindergarten Academies, Mrs. Carpenter has been working with Jane Pollard and Ann Schmidt to move EL and SPED personnel to the kindergarten buildings. Five EL teachers have recently been hired with the expectation that they will move to a different site at the end this school year. Special education staff who will be moving have not yet been determined. Administration will first ask for teachers to volunteer to move to the new kindergarten centers. If more staff is needed after volunteers are placed, teachers with the least amount of experience will be asked to make the move. Decisions about who will move will be made soon so that preparations can be made. Speech staff members will also move since they heavily support kindergarten.

### **Involuntary Transfers from Rosa Parks, Jeremiah Gray and Abraham Lincoln**

Three elementaries -- Rosa Parks, Jeremiah Gray, and Abraham Lincoln -- currently have 2 sets of specials staff which will be reduced to one set at each building next year. In all but one building, teachers have volunteered to move. The plans for those moving will be finalized by March 10th and taken to the Board of Education for approval.

### **Terry Rice Scholarship**

2017 is the 5th year PEA has offered the \$500 Terry Rice Scholarship to one recipient at each of the district's high schools to students who plan to study the field of education.

At Perry Meridian High School, the due date to apply for the scholarship is April 4, 2017. The scholarship will be awarded at Awards Night on Thursday, May 4, 2017 beginning at 7:30PM.

At Southport High School, the due date to apply for the scholarship is March 17, 2017. The scholarship will be awarded at Awards Night on Monday, May 8, 2017 beginning at 7:00PM.

### **Kelly Educational Staffing**

Discussion was tabled.

## **Summer School**

Mr. Bohannon sought input concerning summer school at the high schools this year. He is leaning toward not holding it because there is no longer a summer testing window. Therefore, few students need to retake the End of Course Assessment (ECA) test now.

To frame his perspective, Mr. Bohannon gave a summary of the recent high school summer school history in Perry Township Schools. Summer school was not offered in 2011. In 2012, summer school was offered because an ECA testing window was available in June. Students had the opportunity to engage in intensive work in Algebra I and/or English 10 and then were able to retake the test. For the last few years, this has been the high school summer school model, which has been successful. However, now less students need to retake the ECA test and the ECA test window is now in December. Therefore, the purpose of the current summer school model is gone. The cost of summer school has mostly been covered by State of Indiana funds; however, this funding has not been tied to the ECA test.

Neil Linville stated that while this will have a financial impact on some teachers, it is hard to justify holding summer school if the test is no longer offered during summer. Currently, some remedial coursework is offered to students during the regular school day by retired math and English teachers.

The majority of classes taken by high school students during summer vacation is for credit recovery, However, some students take courses for credit accrual. At the high school level, Plato for credit recovery is offered during the first 2 weeks and last 2 weeks of summer. An aide monitors the lab in both buildings during these times. At SHS, a certified English teacher and math teacher are available as well. Students also take advantage of class offerings through the Indiana Online Academy during the summer. On average, 700 courses are taken by Perry Township Schools students.

Summer school for EL students will be offered at the high school level and will be covered through Title I funds.

At the elementary level, Vickie Carpenter stated that the State of Indiana has only reimbursed language arts at the elementary level in the past, but now the state will supply funds for math as well. This year, she is looking at adding math to summer school remediation. At the elementary level, summer school will be held at Abraham Lincoln and Mary Bryan this year.

Next Discussion Meeting will be held on Thurs. April 13 at 4:10 p.m.