

SSPO Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2015

Officers Present: Kate, Shannon, Nicole, Nancy, Alisa, Ann, Anna, Inga, John & Audrey

November SSPO meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: All SSPO dues have been received. We've decided not to pursue 501c3, as we have under \$5,000 receipts per year, and an IRS letter showing it's not needed. \$2,609.46 in the bank.

District Update: We are responding to a lot of significant changes and want children to be prepared for testing; the school calendar has been out for about 4 weeks and received feedback; the district is proposing moving the school's start date up 2 days (earlier); this allows high school exams to get in before winter break; elementary parents have expressed concern that it's an encroachment on summer break and that orientation days be placed closer to the start of school vs. 7-10 days prior as many people are on vacation; There is a collaborative initiative between Lourdes and NV to share the athletic facilities at NV. A further update will be shared at the upcoming Board mtg.; So far we have missed 4 days of school – 5 days better than last year – there are no more calamity days from the State – now it's about being in school a certain number of hours vs. missing # of days – we'd have to miss 33, 25 & 21 days at high, middle & elementary school levels in order to have to make up days; 1/26/15 should finalize hiring Superintendent Scott Nelson starting 7/1/15 – the transition is going well.

Dan Greenberg with Northwest Ohio Friends of Public Education passed out flyers for "Rise Above the Mark", which shows the harmful impact of over-testing our kids, 2/05/15, 7-9 pm, Sylvania Southview

TOPIC: Academic Update: Guests: Adam Fineske, Executive Director of Curriculum & Assessment; Sheryl O'Shea, Director of Technology; Julie Sanford, Assistant Director of Curriculum; and Teacher leaders Dave Budas and Michele Henson.

The 21st Century Leadership Team is a team of teachers (about 50) leading the initiative.

Where have we been academically for the past 3 yrs? Our District priorities are:

- Roll-out of OH's new learning standards K-12; English/Lang.Arts, Math, Science & Social S
- New curriculum materials – K-12 still implementing
- Strong teacher-led professional development – trained our teachers to be the leaders
- Implementation of Digital learning initiative – Chromebooks at every school now
- Increased use of technology to drive instruction – kids are embedded in this world

Where are we now? Results 2013-2014 District Report Card were released in the fall and we received all A's & B's on our District report card (state expects you to get a C – met requirements). We had an 87.3% Performance Index; 100% In Progress (growth of all kids at all levels) and our overall district Performance Index Score was 104.1 – Highest ever in Sylvania!

Where are we going and how are we going to get there?

- Preparing students for the 21st century
- Focus on instruction practices
- Continue to focus on 21st century learner
- Blending preparation for Ohio's New State Tests (next generation assessments) with additional support and training

How is the Face of Instruction changing for our students?

- Strong focus on differentiated instructional practices
 - site NEWSELA (news for English Language Arts) – written for students; great features; print off article (same) for all kids; changes the reading levels to meet the needs of each student – teacher directed
 - Achieve 3000 (12 levels for each article) – articles on Money, Health, Law & Arts
- Primary sources in the past were to read letters or speeches; now, in class, students work on presentations – video instructions – they are creating movies with images, linking to the document they are reading, creative ways to analyze a document & interacting with it
- Grant for students 6-12 to implement Achieve 3000 in their classrooms

Differentiation at the Elementary level: Some examples:

- Raz-Kids.com – read-along, record their voices, test (at home and at school)
- Xtra Math – differentiating math levels, challenging each
- ABCia – assign work at their reading level – extra practice for success
- Chromebooks in the WordWork station; writing station – typing into them – still using computers
- Tool for Teaching – writing & creativity differentiations – edit, work on at home, share, present

Define a 21st Century Classroom

- Instructional Concentration on blending the 4 C's:
- Creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem solving, communication & collaboration – what employers want in their employees
- Technology infused wherever possible, as much as possible
- Engagement at High Levels: students should “own” their learning
- Strong focus on differentiation (both through intervention and enrichment)

Ohio's New State Tests

- Online state testing that assesses students on Ohio's new learning standards
- Testing that will take place in 2 testing windows in the subject areas of English Lang Arts, Math, Science & Social Studies
- Students in Grades 3-8, 9, 10 & 12 participate
- 3rd Grade Reading OAA (Fall & 4/28/15) – tied to the 3rd grade reading guarantee and OGT's in Grade 10 (this is the last year) will still take place
- PBA – Performance Based Assessment – more engaging than we are used to (reading a passage and watching a video on the same topic) – in science, a simulation of a laboratory experience – in Social studies, or math, have to manipulate items on a map - synthesize and analyze – write essays (2/23 – 3/20; 1 test per grade per day – in the morning)
- Testing is online and computer-based
- EOY – End of Year Assessment 4/27 - 05/14/15 – 1 test per grade per day – morning – online & computer based – objective test – multiple choice – machine-scored type of questions
- Testing will take place in classrooms for General Ed on Chromebooks
- Students with disabilities on IEP's or 504's and English language learners that require small group and accommodations will test in computer labs

Updates on Technology for Testing – Technology Readiness Process completed through ODE

- Told Ohio Dept. of Education every device we have, versions of software, etc. – strengths & weaknesses – weaknesses corrected and ready to go
- Wireless Internet through the district (every classroom)
- Infrastructure trial – all log on to the test at the same time

- Proctor-caching servers by building (build in redundancy) – 24 hrs. prior to the test, we go to Pearson’s site and download the Test to our Server – takes 30 seconds off response time
- 3-Tier Tech Support for testing – a Tech person will be in every building at the start of the test (log-in times) and 10% redundancy – if 300 Chromebooks, additional 30 techs; special extension will be manned to respond to teacher or Principal when something breaks down

What are Administrators, Teachers & Students Doing to Prepare?

- Teacher Professional Development; late starts
- District Level State Test Planning Team – meet weekly – Sheryl, Adam, Darren, Julie & Mikki
- Teachers working in NGA like assessment questions into their instruction
- Teachers have made video tutorials on how to use different test tools – they have to learn how to respond digitally as they used to manually – practicing dragging & dropping the answers, circling questions to return to later, etc.
- Due diligence is there to prepare our teachers as well as our students to be ready for these tests

Keyboarding Without Tears – new program in Kindergarten - embedding curriculum in the keyboarding – click & drag skills appropriate for their level (geometric shapes) – choose correct grammar for a sentence and then type it in – Geography – match games – informational sentences

STAR testing – already preparing for future tests

The 21st Century Learning team has already given today’s presentation to the Board of Education, on 1/5/15. Today they are presenting at SSPO, and they can certainly follow up with information for bldg. level parent organizations if requested.

District communication of Schedules & Testing frameworks through school newsletters in Jan/Feb
Classroom communication to parents from teachers as details become more specific by grade

Parent questions:

- Scrap paper for math work? Yes
- Mouse vs track pad (school will provide)
- Text to speech (some learn better that way) – keep anxiety down
- At Elementary level, one grade per day – Jr. Highs all 3 at once – based on tech availability
- If 9th grader passes, have to take all tests? Each test = 1.5 pt.; balance proficiency, Cum. 18 points

Meeting adjourned at 1:07 pm.

NEXT SSPO MEETING

Friday, Feb. 6th – School Health and Allergies; Noon, Admin. Building, Zimpfer Conference Room

SPRING SSPO FORUM

Thursday, March 26th – 21st Century Learning; 7 p.m., Arbor Hills Jr. High