

**Teacher Advisory Committee Meeting
West High School Library
Thursday, March 29, 2018**

Present:

Bob Thomas, Superintendent
August Askins, Holston Middle
Tiffany Holmes, Lonsdale
Michelle Keaton, Paul Kelley Academy
Antoinette Williams, Farragut Intermediate
Laura Davis, West High School
Jim Porter, Powell High
Amy Cox, Halls Elementary
Natalie Dowling, Carter High
Rebecca Loveday, Farragut Middle School
Kitty Pruett, Northwest Middle School
Tanya Coats, KCEA Representative
Merry Anderson, Karns Middle
Chris Beatty, System wide
Beth Howard, Farragut High School

Guests:

Gail Byard, Director of Information Technology
Theresa Nixon, Director of Educational Technology
Jon Rysewyk, Chief Academic Officer
Shannon Jackson, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Laurie Driver, Supervisor of Assessments and Counselors
Julie Thompson, Director of Elementary Education
Cheryl Hickman, Director of Secondary Education
Missy Massie, Director of Student Support Services
Tammi Campbell, Ombudsman

Not Present:

Kelly Farr, Mount Olive
Ali Umbarger, Sunnyview
Nicole Sanders, Christenberry Elementary School
Blair Harrison, Pond Gap Elementary School
Katheryne Cohen, West Haven
Jarrod Pendergraft, South-Doyle Middle

Superintendent Bob Thomas

- Mr. Thomas welcomed everyone and thanked them for being there.
- Mr. Thomas talked about the Top 40 Survey and requested that everyone participate in the survey.

Compensation for Summer Work

- Ms. Tanya Coats, KCEA representative shared that she was at a meeting with a room full of teachers and those teachers told her that they were asked to go to a training or they would get penalized.
- Ms. Massie shared that her department has sent out written communication that states that summer professional development (PD) is optional and that if a counselor attends, they will receive flex time.
- Committee member stated that some counselors get a ½ day flex time while others will receive a full day of flex time.
- Committee member asked why they couldn't pay the teachers for the PD hours during the summer, but could pay for a sub during the school year for a teacher to attend PD hours.
- Committee member shared that teachers felt forced to take PD hours in the summer.
- Shannon Jackson, Director of curriculum and Instruction stated that summer PD is not required.
- Committee member recommended more training on how to use IEP's and how to accommodate special needs students.
- Ms. Massie shared ideas about Farragut High having time with case managers each year to answer to discuss IEP's and how to handle different situations that may come up during the school year.

- Committee member stated that there has been a shift in the PD over the last couple of years. Ms. Jackson shared that after evaluating all of the PDs that attendance has dwindled. She stated that it took a lot of preparation for no one to show up.
- Theresa Nixon, Director of School Technology shared that they are trying to think of other models for PD to be respectful of everyone's time.
- Committee member shared concerns about the Gifted and Talented (GT) program changing. She ask what does that mean.
- Dr. Jon Rysewyk, Chief Academic Officer shared that the shift came from the funding source.
- There was discussion about what the future looked like for GT coaches and how they work with teachers.

Technology in Schools

- Mr. Thomas shared the history of technology in schools with the committee.
- He shared that only 5% of the budget is for technology.
- Discussion was had about each school purchasing their own technology.
- Ms. Gail Byard, Director of Information Technology shared how many chrome books, macs, iPads and window machines have been purchased.
- Ms. Byard stated that the principal has the autonomy for technology in their school and how much of it is used in the classroom.
- Ms. Byard shared that KCS has made great strides with technology, but not where we need to be yet.
- Mr. Thomas shared that Ms. Byard has requested more techs in the field, but the budget does not support it.
- Committee member shared concerns about some students having mac books and other students do not have any. Member stated that it doesn't seem fair.
- Ms. Theresa Nixon, Director of Educational Technology talked about how to be successful with technology in school. She stated that schools need a clear vision of how the technology is going to be used in the classroom.
- Ms. Julie Thompson, Executive Director of Elementary School shared that the challenge is choosing and using technology to further students learning.
- It was shared that budget is a huge concern for principals when discussing technology in their schools.
- Ms. Thompson stated that she has seen great things in schools that has technology.
- The group discussed that technology has to be used as a way for students to grow and learn.
- Committee member stated that students know more about technology than the teachers do.
- Concerns were shared that teachers are asking students to do things that teachers do not know how to do regarding technology.
- Committee member asked why they are being pushed to use Canvas. Ms. Nixon talked about Canvas and also explained how to use it.
- Committee member asked if Canvas will ever be able to talk to Aspen in the future. Ms. Nixon and Ms. Byard stated that there has been negotiations, but nothing yet.
- Committee member shared how valuable their technology teacher is and ask if every school has a technology lab.
- The group discussed having technology labs and having technology teachers to support the curriculum.
- Ms. Thompson stated that each principal has the autonomy to decide what classes will be available at their school.
- There was discussion about a Quest classroom and the possibility of offering more students the opportunity to participate in distance learning.
- Ms. Nixon explained the process of Quest and also encouraged committee members to pay attention to systems out there.
- Committee member asked if teachers are paid for participating in distance learning.
- Committee member asked if student takes additional courses or is it part of curriculum.

- Committee member asked about GT coach students and using platforms. Ms. Jackson stated that using the platforms is great, but all have to tie back to core academics.
- Committee member stated that students don't want to go to certain classes that they are not interested in.
- Ms. Jackson stated that it is important to get exposed to all courses.
- There was discussion about students taking online test tutorial before assessments are given.

Closing Remarks:

- Mr. Thomas shared a budget update with the committee.
- He thanked the committee for being there and for their participation.

Next Meeting

- Next Meeting will be Thursday, April 26 at 4:30 pm in the West High School Library