

WORK SESSION

FEBRUARY 4, 2016

A work session was held on February 4, 2016 at 6:15 PM. The following members were present: President David Allen, Jeff Lowry, Dennis Gutwein, Jeff Tanner, Jim Bergens, Gary Gudeman, and Todd Miller. Also in attendance were Kris Aschbrenner, Principals Dan Zylstra and Pat Culp, and Superintendent Don Street.

The purpose of the work session was to review the “Strategic Plan” developed in 2011 and to discuss the future needs of the corporation. Technology Director, Kris Aschbrenner, was present and took part in the discussion on current and future technology for our students at West Central School Corporation. Principals Dan Zylstra and Pat Culp were present to participate in the discussion on educational and academic goals.

Discussion Items:

Technology

Mr. Aschbrenner reviewed the current internet plan, devices used by students and teachers (IPads and Chromebooks), and current upgrades to the computer labs for state testing. Discussions on future needs were updating teacher units.

1:1 program is going well. Because of the newness of 1:1, students, staff, and parents are learning the benefits and advantages for using a device. K-3 students are using IPads and 4-12 students are using Chromebooks. Older students prefer the Chromebooks because of the keyboard and the advantages it has over the iPad for keyboarding purposes. The 1:1 device is a supplement to learning or an instrument that is used to advance education. Students are learning the importance of a digital footprint and the impact it has on our lives. Gaggle is one (1) program that filters student internet activity and provides administrators with student email activity.

E-Learning days are being planned for all students K-12 on upcoming Saturdays. Students will be assigned the work on a Friday and assignments will be due on Monday. This will allow flexibility with relevant school material. Schools will be open for students that need internet access. Information will be sent to students and parents for the upcoming Saturday E-Learning Days.

West Central School Corporation has a key group of students called the “Tech Team” that assist Mr. Aschbrenner with school technology needs. The students are very knowledgeable and work hard in helping students and staff solve technology issues.

Academics

Mr. Zylstra reported that social studies textbooks are being adopted for the 2015-16 school year and mathematics the following school year. The importance of finding material that is online and aligned to the Indiana State Standards is a top priority.

The Title 1 program has a director and four instructional assistants. A program is being developed in which the instructional assistants provide guidance and supervision for a classroom and the classroom teacher provides individual small group instruction to students that need additional help.

More direct teacher support has been given to special needs students with inclusion. Research has shown the students growth improves with inclusion practices.

Student enrollment was reviewed and information was shared concerning the need for teachers and instructional assistants per student enrollment.

Mr. Culp provided information with the inclusion in the middle school. The middle school will be going to an eight (8) period day. Students will still receive 80 minutes of mathematics and language arts. This is double the time for most middle schools. Students will receive 40 minutes of instruction and return for 40 minutes of additional assistance. This schedule change will not affect the overall schedule of the middle-senior high school. A review of the current Block 4 schedule will be conducted next school year. The review will focus on what is best for students in today's educational expectations. The changes with the state testing and Accuplacer test remediation requirements were covered. Information about providing additional courses in mathematics and Language Arts labs and basic skills courses were discussed.

Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Street reviewed the Capital Projects Plans for the next three (3) years. Information was shared about the needs of the aging building. Sewer drains, water, electric panels, lighting, windows, doors, security system, restrooms, storage, locker rooms, sidewalks, and fitness facilities were all discussed. Many of these items are original, and they have seen their better days. A review of the facilities will be conducted later in the spring to discuss possible options for updating the original construction.

Vision – Mission

“Encourage Every Student Every Day – Engage – Empower - Educate” is the vision for the West Central School Corporation. The mission is – West Central Schools commit to a comprehensive system of support, which ensures every member of the school community is prepared for further learning and successful career opportunities in a technology rich global economy. This is accomplished in an environment that fosters positive attitudes towards self, others, work, and responsible citizenship.

Educational Goals

Promote rigor, relevance, and relationships in the classroom.

Assure student growth through the evaluation of programs and resources.

Keep pace with technology in order for our students to compete in a global economy.

Data Driven instruction must continue to drive teacher-student decisions. Establishing a positive rapport is a must for student success. Staff must make every effort to get to know their students in order to help them achieve academically, socially, and physically.

Financial Goals

Maintain financial stability during a time of economic strain.

Continue to focus on energy conservation and safety.

Items that will influence the financial goals at the school corporation include student enrollment, health care costs, unfunded legislative mandates, the state budget, staff retirements, new compensation model, and utility cost.

Policy Goals

Review, evaluate, and develop policies that address the needs of the students and school community.

Review of current Strategic Plan

Based upon the discussion, the strategic plan will be revised and presented at the next meeting.

President James Bergens asked the board if there was any further business. Being none, the president adjourned the meeting.

David Allen, President

APPROVED:

Todd Miller, Secretary