

October~~May 22~~April~~07~~, 2018~~5~~

To: Brent Lehman
Cindy Engle Jaime Macklin Ellen Folkerts Pam Bultemeier
Kelly Roby
Becky Durnbaugh Randy Hisner Ben Fawbush Mike Riehm aima Macklin Ellen Folkerts
Kyle Eichenauer Mike Riehm Jaime Macklin

Re: Minutes from Monthly Discussion Meeting, 95-4/121907/20185

The Monthly Discussion Meeting convened at 7:00~~101~~ Tue~~Thurs~~esday ~~morning~~, October~~May~~April 21~~19~~07, 2018~~5~~, in the Board Room~~Boardroom~~ at the North Adams Administration Building. In attendance were Brent Lehman and Larry Carty, representing North Adams Administration, and Pam Bultemeier, Becky Eichenauer, Becky Durnbaugh, Ellen Folkerts, Ellen Folkerts, Randy Hisner and Cindy Engle, Jaime Macklin and Mike Riehm Jaime Macklin, an -representing the North Adams Teachers Association.

Superintendent Lehman opened the discussion by pointing out that the SY 2020-2021 calendar was the only item on the agenda.

The following topics were discussed:

Revisited Items

- 1. SY 2020-2021 Calendar:** Two draft calendars were provided for review and discussion. Draft 1 showed a First Student Day of Wednesday, August 12 and a Last Student Day of Monday, May 24, while Draft 2 showed a First Student Day of Monday, August 10 and a Last Student Day of Thursday, May 20. Correspondingly, Draft 1 showed a First Teacher Day of Friday, August 7 and a Last Teacher Day of Tuesday, May 25, while Draft 2 showed a First Teacher Day of Wednesday, August 5 and a Last Teacher Day of Friday, May 21. The remainder of the calendars was the same.
Superintendent Lehman then asked if August 10 is the earliest student start date that should be considered. The first response was that consensus among teachers is that no one wants a full week of students the first week. There is too much distraction in the acquisition of supplies and materials, tweaking of schedules, preparation of plans and classroom organization. That pretty well knocks out Draft 2 with August 10 as a First Student Day. The observation was then made that 1 day of finals falling after a weekend

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is not a good situation either. That would occur with the Draft 1 May 24 Last Student Day calendar. Concern had previously been expressed with regard to AP testing conflicting with final exams. That was tentatively relieved by the observation that testing appears to fall on the Thursday of the second full week in May.

The combination of above constraints led to the proposal of a third draft calendar with Tuesday, August 11 as the First Student Day, Friday, May 21 as the Last Student Day, Thursday, August 6 as the First Teacher Day and Monday, May 24 as the Last Teacher Day.

The suggestion was made that the Wednesday before Thanksgiving be considered as a planned eLearning day. That possibility can be revisited; however, it will require North Adams to notify the State that we plan to use eLearning for PD days and not just for adverse weather response. Comment was made that eLearning can cause issues for families both with the need for lesson assistance for their children and with having to provide someone to watch their children. The statement was made that shifting one of the teacher days from the start of the school year back to the start of the second semester would be a welcome change.

Superintendent Lehman indicated that with this information he will begin discussion of the 2020-2021 calendar with the other superintendents in the county.

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1. 2015-2016 Class Size – Kindergarten Round-up was the smallest turnout in 7 or 8 years small. Definitely the smallest in the 7 years of data Brent has, but no staffing changes are planned for next year. The historical changes in class size in the interval between registration and the start of school have been seen to range from a low of 28% to a high of 6267%, making it safe to say that there is no reason to worry yet about class size. Based upon the progression of two smaller classes through the elementary grades, it is probable that the 4th Grade will return to 5 sections for the 2016-2017 school year. The question was asked if there is a “required” student-teacher ratio in special education. The answer is “no”, there is no requirement, only a recommendation.

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2. Reductions for 2015-16 – Concern has been expressed by staff at Southeast about possible loss of prep time as a result of the change of a certified position to a non-certified position. How will those responsibilities be covered? It was stated that redistribution of responsibilities we be done to cover for this change. The new guidance counselor will be splitting time between Southeast and Northwest, providing some additional front office coverage.

3. Instructional Make-Up Days – Superintendent Lehman, Scott Miller, Tim Myers, Keith Dicke and Aaron Baker recently met with teachers and administrators from Adams Central to discuss their experiences with eLearning days. Consensus is that while an eLearning day is less than a regular day in class, it is still better than a day at the end of the school year. Superintendent Lehman again voiced the opinion that making up instructional time after completion of student achievement testing is an ineffective action, and that serious consideration needs to be given to alternate methods of recovering lost days in future school years.

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Concern was expressed that eLearning could generate the perception that the value of teachers is minimal. It was noted that student attendance is 100% for eLearning days, and that can bias the overall attendance figure. Comment was made that the same students who do not do their homework on regular days will not do the eLearning work either.

~~How do we best get our education in front of the testing window?~~

~~New Items from NATA~~

~~1. 21st Century Staffing—Funding continues to decline, about \$50,000 per year. How do we maintain as many programs as long as possible for the kids? Pulling the programs to one site is a first step; that pools resources for most effective utilization. Not sure where we go next.~~

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~~The Title grant poses the same problems; how do we maintain / improve efficiency?~~

~~New Items from NATA~~

~~1. The question was asked how the hiring of a Director of Learning is proceeding. Interviewing is currently underway with 4 applicants. It is as yet undetermined if additional interviewing will be necessary.~~

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~~New Items from Administration~~

~~None.~~

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~~the Discussions meetings on the first Tuesday of the month for the 2016 – 2017 school year? Looks like everyone is in agreement with that. The first meeting will be September 6th;~~

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~~None~~

~~With no further items remaining on the agenda on the agenda, thanks were again expressed to all, and the April Monthly Discussion Meeting was was adjourned at 7:58 at 7:41 AM.~~

~~—The next meeting will probably be the second week of May, 2015.~~

Submitted by,

Larry G. Carty

~~Business Manager / Treasurer~~ Director of Operations