

~~September~~~~May 12~~~~April 07, 2018~~~~5~~

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

Re: Minutes from Monthly Discussion Meeting, ~~95-4/124907/2018~~~~5~~

The Monthly Discussion Meeting convened at ~~7:00~~~~101~~ ~~Wedn~~~~Thuesday~~ ~~morningg~~, ~~September~~~~May~~~~April~~ ~~12~~~~19~~~~07~~, 2018~~5~~, in the ~~Board Room~~~~Boardroom-Room~~ at the North Adams Administration Building. In attendance were Brent Lehman and Larry Carty, representing North Adams Administration, and ~~Pam Bultemeier~~, ~~Becky Eichenauer~~, ~~Duernbaugh~~, ~~Ellen Folkerts~~, ~~Ellen Folkerts~~, ~~Randy Hisner~~ and ~~Cindy Engle~~, ~~Ben Fawbush~~, ~~Jaime Macklin~~ and ~~Mike Riehm~~, ~~Jaime Macklin~~, ~~an~~ -representing the North Adams Teachers Association-.

Superintendent Lehman opened the discussion with a review of past practice that meetings occur on the first Tuesday of the month. If that is still the desired time, it will be necessary to wrap up by 7:30 because he has to be in Bluffton for an 8:00 meeting on that same day. For now, meetings will continue to be on the first Tuesday of each month, but the matter continues to be open for revision.

The following topics were discussed:

Revisited Items

None.

- 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.**
- 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**

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~~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.~~

~~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.~~

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

New Items from NATA

~~None.~~

New Items from Administration

- ~~1. Safety Plans for each facility have been reviewed with staff by the respective principals. Central Office has been advised of completion of this review, and notification of the Indiana Department of Education will be done by the Superintendent.~~
- ~~2. With regard to teacher evaluation, there were 37 Highly-Effective, 78 Effective, 0 Improvement Needed and 0 Ineffective ratings given. It should be noted that distinction is made between Highly-Effective and Effective ratings in the distribution of Teacher Appreciation funds from the State.~~
- ~~3. Even though school calendar is a non-discussable item, opinion from certified staff is appreciated. While the North Adams calendar does not duplicate that of the other county school districts, effort is made to co-ordinate with them as much as possible for the sake of Special Needs and CTE students, respectively. With regard to the initial draft SY2020-2021 calendar, the following comments were made:~~
 - ~~a) Summer school time slots have been tentatively marked for the sake of planning.~~
 - ~~b) Semesters are similar in length: 87 days in 1st, 93 days in 2nd.~~
 - ~~c) Would it be possible to schedule Fall Break for the week of Callithumpian?~~
 - ~~d) Could the end of the school year be bumped forward from Monday, 5/24, to Friday, 5/21? AP tests fall too close to final exams.~~
 - ~~e) Would it be possible to add the Wednesday before Thanksgiving to the holiday break, and start students on 8/11 to recover the day?~~
 - ~~f) What about shifting one of the 3 teacher lead-in days from before school starts until a month or so after school starts? Or maybe even to the start of the second semester? (Note: Not all required trainings have to be done every year. The load should ease up a bit next year.)~~
 - ~~g) Would it be possible to have a planned eLearning day that would also be used for a teacher in-service day? Even though we are currently limited to no more than 5 eLearning days per year, that could be revised based upon need.~~

~~It is important to remember that we have plenty of time for discussion since we are already approved for next year's calendar.~~

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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