

School Improvement Advisory Committee Minutes
Vocational Advisory Committee
October 27, 2008

Members in attendance: Shawn Holloway, Rose Davis, Mark Egi, Diane Scheffler, Reg Merrell, Zuella Swartzendruber, Delaine Warnke, Teresa Hood, Duane Paterson, Ann Schlapkohl

Iowa Core Curriculum

Laura Horan, Assessment Specialist, shared information about the Iowa Core Curriculum that was legislated in the spring of 2008. She explained the vision, how it was created, and the characteristics of what it will look like when it is fully implemented. The Iowa Core is a set of skill and concepts that more specifically defines standards and benchmarks in the areas of Literacy, Math, Science and Social Studies. In addition, the Core includes 21st Century Skills for Technology Literacy, Health Literacy, Financial Literacy, and Employability Skills.

Student Achievement Goals

Laura Horan handed out the 08-09 annual student achievement goals for Reading, Math, and Science. She also explained how the goals are made meaningful at the building level and are used by teachers for their Individual Professional Development Plans. The committee reviewed and discussed the goals. A motion was made by Teresa Hood and seconded by Ann Schlapkohl to recommend that the goals be sent to the school board for approval. Motion carried.

Reading: The percent of students scoring at the proficient level or higher in reading in grades 4, 5-8, and 9-11 as measured by ITBS and ITED will increase from the 07-08 school year to the 08-09 school year.

Math: The percent of students scoring at the proficient level or higher in math in grades 4, 5-8, and 9-11 as measured by ITBS and ITED will increase from the 07-08 school year to the 08-09 school year.

Science: The percent of students scoring at the proficient level or higher in science in grades 4, 5-8, and 9-11 as measured by ITBS and ITED will increase from the 07-08 school year to the 08-09 school year.

Vision of Teaching and Learning

Laura Horan shared the status of the voluntary DINA review that was started last year. The district is currently working on the first priority which is to create a Vision for Teaching and Learning. Mrs. Horan shared the process which involves all teachers in crafting the vision. A final draft of the vision should be available by the end of the 1st semester. At that time, the District Leadership Team will take status and continue to make plans in regards to making the vision meaningful at each building

Vocational Advisory Committee Presentation

Russ Bristow, Building Trades Instructor, reported on the house currently being built in Manson. Eight student builders are involved in the construction process. They are

currently finishing up the interior walls. The students will be included in all aspects of the construction, including wiring and plumbing. Some aspects of plumbing and the final hook up of the electric are left to professionals. The current house will again feature geothermal heating and cooling. Mr. Bristow answered questions and explained some of the details of this heating and cooling system.

Financial Report

Superintendent Egli presented the financial report for 2007-2008 and his projections for the MNW District. The past year involved the utilization of Unspent Budget Authority to spend above the District's generated Budget Authority. Supt. Egli explained that the District must reduce expenses by 300,000 to 500,000 dollars over the next two years to get back within the generated Budget Authority without exhausting the accumulated Unspent Budget Authority, also called Unspent Balance. To do this will require a reduction in facilities as well as a reduction in personnel.

Facilities Use Committee Report

Superintendent Egli referred to the Facilities Committee minutes to explain that the MNW District is now far above an appropriate square footage for a school of 650 students. The District has approximately 240,000 square feet of building space, nearly 370 square feet per student. The average for new school construction is less than 200 square feet per student. Facilities Cost Management Group is working with the Facilities Committee to look at the District's facilities from the standpoint of educational needs, projected enrollment and tax management—looking for the least cost in the long term. The Facilities Use Committee's next meeting will be November 10.