

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10
Alternative Learning Subcommittee Minutes
January 25, 2010
Central Office Conference Room

Committee Members Present:

Kathy Deprey, BOE member
Jeanne Doerr, BOE member
Beth Duffy, BOE member
Pat Howley, LSM Guidance
Michelle McCard, LSM School Psychologist
Martha Rouleau, HBMS Asst. Principal
Elaine Schiavone, BOE member

Committee Members Absent:

Karen Sullivan, BOE member

Committee Guests:

Alan Beitman, Superintendent of Schools
Michael Landry, Asst Superintendent of Schools
Linda Carabis, Director of Special Services
Pam Lazaroski, Asst Principal, Lewis S. Mills HS
Peter Bogan, Asst Principal, Har-Bur Middle School

1. An overview was given of previous discussions conducted by the committee, and a restatement of the goal to look into better serving disengaged students within the Region 10 system
2. Alternative programs were discussed:
 - Alternative High School - Elaine reviewed what had been done in Milford. The committee consensus was that Reg 10 numbers were too small to support and alternative high school program and the cost is too high at this time (\$70-80K).
 - Previous Reg 10 discussion included alternate schedule - Mon-Thurs, 3-6pm w/flexible time for counseling, etc. - students would have the opportunity to work in the morning and complete academic requirements in afternoon. We could start small with a program like this, and possibly move to taking tuition students from other districts. Or we could look into starting a cooperative program with surround school districts. Still significant cost involved in a program like this.
 - Michelle commented that students traditionally do better in school within a regular program/schedule.
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3. Future possibilities were discussed:
 - Linda suggested a more formalized mentoring program - each staff member assigned 8-10 students with whom they meet on a regular basis. This program could be worked into both middle and high schools schedules.
 - Pat emphasized that students are looking for connection. Perhaps we should begin w/a focus on 9th grade - create a school within a school for freshmen with teams, as a

transition from middle school teaming - most of academics would be scheduled in the morning, leaving afternoon open for electives, PE, etc.

- Pam discussed program @high school that was established (35 homeroom groups w/20-22 students & 2 adults each) but got put off due to NEASC evaluation efforts. Groups would meet every two weeks (Weeks A/B) and stay with same adult group leaders all four years of high school. Link Crew leaders would leave their group to work with freshmen. 3R's group (students who meet to discuss school issues) brought up loss of Weeks A/B schedule - they are interested in having it back.
- Beth mentioned putting link on website with all programs/services available to students and their families, available to public. That way when a student is struggling, parents have a resources to refer to so that they can work as a partner to teachers & administrators, rather than an adversary.
- Jeanne asked about Region 10 diploma vs. Lewis S. Mills diploma as an option for some students. Region 10 diploma has been used in past for students who attend programs outside LSM, and requires two credits less than an LSM diploma.
- There was discussion about the importance of professional development to make any program work effectively - Alan mentioned that PD will probably be cut by 50% in the coming year due to funding challenges.
- Additional electives and/or curriculum modification was discussed as a way to reach disengaged students. Downsides to this are too many courses become cumbersome for scheduling and creating new curriculum is expensive.


4. Next steps:

- Pam needs to be part of planning on committee-she agreed to participate in future meetings.
- Michelle and Linda will provide "pink pamphlet" w/programs and services already provided in Region 10 through special services.
- Committee will focus on cataloging existing programs in Region 10 and getting them into a format that would work as a link on the district website
- Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 22, 2010 at 7:00 a.m. in the Central Office Conference Room.

The meeting ended at 8:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth L. Duffy



Jeanne Doerr, Secretary

Date 3/8/10