EEE Committee Meeting Minutes - August 23, 2018 - Mellon Board Room

A meeting for the EEE committee took place on August 23, 2018, in the Mellon Board Room. Committee members in attendance were: Angela Ward, Dr. Laura Taylor, Jaime Roundtree (in place of Dr. Jennifer Ivory-Tatum), Kathy Richards, Kathy Shannon, Angela Schoonover, Minnie Pearson, Raya Hegeman-Davis.

Mrs. Ward welcomed the group to the meeting and asked members to review and approve minutes if there are no changes. A motion was made by Dr. Laura Taylor and seconded by Minnie Pearson to approve the April 16, 2018 meeting minutes.

Revisiting Our Purpose

After group introductions, Mrs. Ward explained EEE gives a panoramic view of what is happening within the district regarding data. The district will continue to share and explain the data with the community in order to be thinking partners together. Data presented for Special Education and Culture & Climate will be at the next meeting, October 25, 2018.

Data Presentation

Mrs. Ward presented the district enrollment with a total of 9,865 active students for the school year 17-18. Racial/Ethnic Diversity and the district's demographics for English Language Learners, SPED and SES are growing, noting ELL are up 11.3% from previous 9.7% the year before. More than half of our student population is Low SES at 51.65%.

Mr. Jaime Roundtree presented elementary data, in place of Dr. Ivory-Tatum's absence, for the second semester of the 2017-2018 school year. He provided the definition of MAP, Measures of Academic Progress, as a norm-referenced assessment and noted that the district is in its fifth year of MAP testing for elementary level students. Looking at the overall totals for the Winter and Spring Math MAP, it is showing an increase in our second-grade students at or above the 21st percentile with a total of 76%. According to the norm reference data, 80% of the students should be operating at or above 21% percentile. Second graders have audio testing, which is read to them, and may help students understand some of the vocabulary. Hispanics showed a decrease from the first semester of 67.5% down to 63% the second semester. All student performances stayed relatively consistent or the same in Reading -MAP for the overall total of students. The district is working to increase the numbers as far as diversity in our gifted classes.

Kathy Richards stated we have discussed the district collecting data regarding students selected for gifted classes, but chose to decline those classes. Kathy is wondering if the committee can make that request to get that data? Our district will set a way to figure out who, by race/ethnicity, is turning down honors classes. An idea of sending out a survey regarding why the parent did not choose to place their student in the honors class was mentioned.

Minnie Pearson asked what difference, if any, does the district see in data with students on balanced calendar vs regular calendar students in enrichment and the regular classrooms? Mrs. Ward answered she has not seen a huge difference in the data due to students being in year-round school, but more so it depends on the campuses.

Mrs. Ward introduced Ms. Kristen Maclin, Instructional Specialist at Bottenfield, who worked with incoming sixth graders, in the Math Boost program, as well as the Summer Bridge Academy (SBA). The Summer
Bridge Academy offers a distinct focus on the use of history and social justice to help solve real-world problems. Students are able to be a part of a micro-society where they can find their voice on issues like managing finances, peer juries, media production, analyzing historical documents, and more. Academic tasks focus on reading, social studies, and math power standards. The Math Boost Program introduces students to units not covered in the regular course sequence, but critical to successfully mastering the honors math curriculum. The unique AVID curriculum introduces key concepts coupled with AVID note taking, organization, inquiry-based problem solving, and collaboration strategies. Jaime Roundtree added the district held a Summer Math Camp program with middle school teachers, and the help of the University of Chicago professors, to talk about student gaps in terms of vocabulary and language.

Mrs. Ward presented the second-semester middle school data. The MAP data for African American student population is 38% for 6th, 36% for 7th and 41% for 8th graders. There is already a dip from elementary to middle levels in MAP. The district plans to look at specific strategies, and how teachers are changing their ways of delivering information to students. In order to keep this gap from widening, the district has added an additional staff member for sixth grade Math to help the struggling students within those classrooms. MAP Reading data is a lot better, students are at the 50th percentile, but we still need to close that gap in reading. With an increase, each semester going in, Honors still has a gap regarding access and opportunity. Mrs. Viodelda Judkins, Director of ESL/Bilingual, will be performing professional development with vocabulary for ELL teachers. AVID brings in 356 African American students and is becoming more diverse with a total of 612 total students.

Kathy Richards stated she has heard middle school honors will be handled differently this year. “Is there no honors reading, but there will be different reading groups?” Mrs. Ward answered, “yes, Franklin is in a pilot program for honors. Franklin is not separating honors students by space, but more so by the projects students complete and the complex reading students are toggling between”. Not currently happening at other campuses’, but the other middle schools do have the plans in which Franklin is operating. Kathy expressed interest and stated it would be great to hear an update on how it is going.

Dr. Laura Taylor presented the second-semester high school data. Honors class enrollment has dropped a bit, but not much difference. This could be due to students graduating at semester. AP enrollment should not drop with most students staying all year and testing completed in May. Dr. Taylor mentioned the thought of picking classes other than AP Stats to present during EEE due to the class being so steady. This class does give them dual credit and grade rate distribution remains the same. Graduation Rate numbers are not in from the state at this time and will be looked at during the February data presentation.

AP Summary, in 2012, the district had 409 tests taken compared to 903 test taken in 2018. African American students started at 13 test taken in 2012 with 51 testing taken in 2018. Low but working to raise that number. Our District’s mean score for Advanced Placement is still above Illinois’ mean score. The first presentation for SAT scores will be presented at the February data meeting.

Kathy Shannon mentioned the Brilliant, Bold, Beautiful movement and the term “singletons”, and how distressing it is for an African American student to be the only student in a class. She asked the district to take that into consideration? Dr. Taylor responded, “yes, the district does take that into consideration when scheduling classes and the district knows to cohort students.” Jaime added due to additions of new staff, the district will reiterate that info when putting together class rosters.

Mrs. Ward closed the meeting stating the district continues to work to close the gap for students. Math help is on the ground for sixth graders, summer opportunities and K-8 conversations are all taking place as well.

Next EEE meeting will be Thursday, October 25, 2018.

Respectfully submitted by,
Liz Smith