

Central Academy of Technology and Arts
School Improvement Team
September 21, 2011

Members in attendance: Dr. Shaun Poole, Jeff Pusser, Audrey Fowler, Brad Bunce, Deb Christensen, Adam and Christa Dailey, Dale Ann Plyler, Shari Davison, Elaine Holeman, Lisa Eaton, Jennifer Owen, Miranda Calandro and Kamilah Deese.

Deb Christensen nominated as chair
Elaine Holeman nominated as secretary
Brad Bunce nominated as time keeper

Introductions were made

Dr. Poole:

- 1) Testing Data: 8 EOC's were given last year, this year only 3 EOC's will be administered (Eng 1, Bio 1, & Algebra 1)
 - a. Algebra 1 – 97.1% proficiency rating – did not meet growth
 - b. Bio – 98% proficiency rating – did not meet growth
 - c. English I – 99.5% proficiency rating – met growthFocus this year is on growth rather than composite scores. We will be using predictor scores on individual students to show growth in above courses this year.
- 2) School was judged on 3 EOC courses, 10th grade writing, and Graduation Rate
- 3) CATA met growth this last year and need to meet growth this coming year to keep Honor School of Excellence. Plans in place re: how to maintain this (extra tutoring, EOC's blitz's etc)
- 4) Budget: Dr. Poole is paying bills from last year (\$10,000-15,000). This is hurting this year's budget. Major academic areas received \$3,000 each, CTE areas received \$1,000 each to spend as needed for supplies. Paper budget has been a big issue with CATA; \$25,000 budget for paper/copier supplies this year. His approach is to be conservative up front.
- 5) Graduation at Cabarrus Arena this year 7:30pm (splitting rental cost with 3 other area high schools)
- 6) Tutoring Schedule no longer only on Tuesday and Thursday – now Monday-Thursday both before and after school
- 7) CATA is no longer a High School That Works site. This is a reform approach, and CATA does not need to be reformed. This decision led to no longer doing pride period or teachers registering students. A different approach to mentoring will be used at CATA this year.
- 8) School Improvement Plan needs to be reviewed. Not written every year – on a 2 year cycle. Many curriculum changes have taken place in the past 2 years. Some goals have already been accomplished, some are still in progress. 9 staff members, parent reps, student rep will be included. Current School Improvement Plan was projected on screen.

- a. Vision and Mission of CATA will be re-written this year by the staff. School Data has multiple strengths listed (a-i). Improvement focus is on differentiated classrooms, academy teams.
 - b. 3-5 top priorities – most of the priorities listed have already been accomplished and/or mention concepts which only existed on paper but had no “real meat” to them.
 - c. Priority #1 has been changed to reflect the current EOC’s which are being tested.
 - d. Priority #2 increase the use of technology – most of the strategies listed have already been accomplished.
 - e. Priority #3 increase community participation by 20% -- this is a challenging goal.
 - f. Priority #4 increase # of multicultural activities & globalization – this was accomplished as CATA is an International School – we will continue this and expand upon it.
 - g. Priority #5 Increase student achievement.
 - h. Summary – there are 5 goals and the majority of them have already been met.
 - i. Waiver request regarding class size no longer applies because the State already increased the class sizes. Dr. Poole is going to request that we decrease the # of students admitted each year to ensure that we do not go over our maximum capacity of 850 students.
 - j. Safe School Plan is planned by the county, not by individual schools so we do not have to revise this section of the SIP.
 - k. What we will need to revise are the 5 priority goals.
- 9) Vision, mission and goals of the school. We plan on revising all 3 of these due to them being outdated. Dr. Poole wants to direct changes toward what will help improve the over-all school – “concentrate on the forest, not the individual trees”
Dr. Poole’s 4 main goals are:
- a. Curriculum Instruction
 - b. Building a sense of community
 - c. Application process
 - d. Financial structure of the school
- We are #1 in the State on achievement and graduation rate!!
- 10) Dr. Poole asked for questions
- a. Clarification given re: “what is an International School?”
- 11) Vote was taken and it was decided that the current SIP would stay in place for the 2011-2012 school year and that we will work on re-writing the SIP for the following 2 year cycle.

PTSO –

Senior dues need to be considered due to the lack of funds. PTSO would like to take the seniors on a 1-day or 2-day trip as a treat but need the funds to do this in conjunction with Senior week. These dues can also be used toward paying for the cost of graduation. Depending on the amount of \$ collected, the funds can also be used for homecoming, etc.

Some schools currently collect senior dues, some do not. Those that collect have the policy that either you pay, or you don't walk at graduation (exceptions made for hardships).

If we charge a senior fee, we will give more free tickets per student for graduation. Without a senior fee, students will get 4 free graduation tickets and will be charged for any additional tickets – with a senior fee, students would get 6-8 free tickets.

Input was taken from our Student Rep – she asked what the penalties would be for students who did not pay – Dr. Poole said either not walking at graduation and/or not being allowed to participate during senior week.

Parental suggestion was made to obtain business sponsorships – have each student either give \$50 themselves or get a business to donate at least \$50. Ms. Davison suggested “Invest in a Kid” program with a \$40-\$50 goal per each student and businesses who donate could be listed on the website.

Game plan is to brainstorm some ideas – will we collect senior fees? If so, how much will we collect? Ms. Owen suggested that we need to ensure that the seniors know what they are paying for to increase compliance with paying.

Senior week may be done in March this year rather than May to avoid interfering with testing at end of year??? To be determined at a later date.

\$4,200 cost for Cabarrus Arena for graduation this year

Dr. Poole is taking a very hard look at how often and why we are calling students out of class.

Clarification was made regarding whose Tax ID # to use for donations – the answer is it depends upon where the \$ is going to.

Need more teacher involvement in PTSO – no longer a charge for teachers to join PTSO – only requirement is for each teacher to attend at least one meeting per semester. Meetings are held 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7pm in media center

Future meeting dates and times:

Mondays were determined as the best day of the week

The last Monday of the month was determined to be the best choice so that material could be discussed at the Dept Head Meeting that same week

Oct 24th next meeting right after school at 3:45

November date will be confirmed at the next meeting.