

Porter Ridge High School

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Site Based Meeting - Minutes

November 10, 2009, 6:30pm Media Center

- Introduction
Present – Sam Basden, Sandra Fugate, Sarah Brandenburg, April Dawkins, Libby Meiners, Dan Korn, Brooke Stegall, Dr. Sylvia Emafo, Donna Wilber, Gabriela Grello, Rebecca Manning, Kelly VanHorne*

Absent – Amber Drye, Steve Jackson, Trey Staviski, Renea Steeb, Tom Wheeler, Shannon Dill, Leigh Coulter, Ja'nice Marble, Hunter Ross, Susan Forgione

*Ms. VanHorne was attending as part of her internship as well as representing the EC department as Mrs. Drye could not attend.

- PRHS Student Services
 - College Night – This was held at PRHS on Tuesday, November 3, 2009, in PRHS Auditorium. Mr. Basden and Mrs. Manning felt this went well. There were representatives from four year colleges, Junior colleges, community colleges and the military to address all students' needs after graduation.

- PRHS Instruction
 - Updates on Staff
 - Ashley Marion – new media assistant
 - Cathy Hatley – new PE teacher; she is currently filling in for Mrs. Helms who is out on maternity and will fill in for Mrs. Carpenter when she is out.
 - Distance Learning coordinator – once again this position is open as the current teacher has taken another teaching position.
 - AYP and Graduation Rates Plans
 - AYP – The county office asked Mr. Basden to come up with a plan to address how we are going to meet the needs of the respective subgroups who were not met in 2008-2009. The plan includes the following points:
 1. Establish year long course for Biology and English 1 students, similar to Algebra 1 so students receive a years worth of content prior to taking the EOC.
 2. Veteran, successful teachers, as deemed by administration, were given teaching assignments based upon their strengths and EOC course load.
 3. A new benchmark test system is being established. This system is through NCWISE and allows tests to be tied to students so specific subgroups can be targeted throughout the year.
 4. Incorporating the nurtured heart approach to teaching within several classes.
 5. A globalization plan is being put into place by having all teachers focus their reading and writing across the curriculum on a specific country each month.
 - Graduation – The county office asked Mr. Basden to put together a plan to increase our graduation rate, which affected AYP, from the 2008-2009 school year. The first objective was to identify a goal. The

Porter Ridge High School

Home of the Pirates

graduation rate from 2008-2009 was approximately 78%. The goal is to increase that number by 10% for the 2009-2010 academic year. The number reported does not indicate that we had that large of a drop out rate. The graduation rate is based upon the number of students who complete high school being their freshman year, in eight semesters. This does include the number of student graduating early, but it does not include the number of students who graduated from summer school the summer after graduation took place or those who remained PRHS students throughout the 2009-2010 year.

- Once a goal was established, strategies were made to increase the graduation rate. Those include:
 1. Reorganizing the guidance department
 2. Aggressively participating in the CASP Program – This is a program through South Providence High School whereby those students who are significantly behind their peers can graduate by earning a 20 credit hour diploma versus a 28 credit hour diploma. The state has established a diploma as being 20 credit hours. The county is the one who established 28 credit hours.
 3. Insurance policy for seniors – This means that students who may have originally been on the college prep diploma track will have taken enough courses and earned enough credit hours to graduate with a college tech prep diploma in the event they do not meet all of the qualifications for college prep. This will insure students still graduate on time, they will just do so with a different diploma that may require they attend a community college prior to attending a four year college.
 4. One-on-one meetings between the guidance counselors and seniors explaining what they need in order to make sure they graduation on time.
- NCWISE – The newer version of firefox, which is what is installed on Windows Vista and Windows 7, is not compatible with NCWISE. Only the older version of firefox is, which is what we have at school. Due to this, some people may not be able to access NCWISE from home. Although, there may be a way to access NCWISE via Internet Explorer, it is not very reliable. This is a state issue and the county is aware of the problem. For now, unless you have an older version of Microsoft at home, you will not able to access NCWISE to work on grades, from home.
 - Parents will have access to NCWISE beginning next year.
- RAC/WAC – A county wide initiative is reading and writing across the curriculum and has been for several years now. A new initiative, to incorporate global awareness into our classrooms, is also a county supported event. The globalization conference Mr. Basden and others from our school attended several weeks ago was heavily attended by Union County Public Schools. The individual schools are to determine how to go about incorporating global awareness into their classrooms. Our administrative team chose to incorporate globalization into our reading and writing across the curriculum each month as a means of preventing us from having to add an additional piece of instruction to our classrooms. We are tying it into something we are already doing. There have been several concerns about this brought up by teachers. Mrs. Richert sent an email addressing several of those concerns. If you have comments or suggestions regarding this topic,

Porter Ridge High School

Home of the Pirates

you are welcome to see her. One suggestion that was made at the site based meeting was to have clocks with time for different countries displayed somewhere throughout the school building as well as international flags representing the different countries.

- PRHS Operations
 - Flu Shot Center – Given at PRHS tonight for school ages children. This is the seasonal flu vaccine only. There is a possible H1N1 clinic going to be held at Piedmont High school in the near future. The date is not yet determined.
- Site Base/CLT
 - Committee Chairperson Fill-in for January/February – Our first meeting of the semester will be early February. April Dawkins has agreed to fill in as committee chairperson for the weeks Mrs. Fugate is out on maternity.
 - Election for New Representatives in the following departments:
History, Science, CTE, Guidance, Exceptional Children's, and World Languages – Each of these departments will need to elect a new representative to serve on the site based team beginning in January. The representative will need to agree to serve for a total of two years. Reminder, the term of office runs from January to January, a calendar year rather than an academic year, due to the school improvement plan revision process.
- Special Programs / Upcoming Events
 - Athletics
 - Cross County sent four students to regional
 - Tennis went to the first round of playoffs as a team; 4 students went to regionals as individuals
 - Soccer went to the first round of playoffs
 - Football will have their first ever playoff game Friday night
 - Cheerleading tryouts for basketball are underway
 - Basketball has started scrimmage games with the regular season starting November 19.
 - Wrestling is in full gear – have lost one student due to an injury he incurred during the football season
 - Indoor track is underway but many have yet to join since football season has yet to end
 - Swimming as begun.
 - Band
 - Pirate Cove Classic took place on Saturday, October 24, 2009. This has become a big event with bands from out of state in attendance. This completed the competitions for the band. Now they are gearing up for concert band.
 - Art
 - Drama competed at NCTC on Friday, November 6, 2009. Mrs. Briggs won excellence in directing; Luke Tucker won excellence in acting; Theater 3 won excellence in ensemble work; Theater 4 won excellence in costuming. They will perform their number at school soon, date is TBD.
 - Several students were invited to go to Mars Hill in February.

Porter Ridge High School

Home of the Pirates

- Connect Ed Messages
 - Mr. Basden noted that when he sends out connect ed messages he always highlight the three A's, academics, athletics, and the arts. Since we are now a four A school, he going to add a 4th A to his messages. He has yet to determine the exact term, but it will be something along the lines of Assistance (Activism). This will be to highlight the service work that is being done at PRHS. For example, the very successful blood drive that took place in October. We hold the 2nd largest blood drive in the county. Also, the \$1000 raised for breast cancer awareness in October by the FCCLA.
 - Ms. Dawkins asked Mr. Basden to also highlight academic clubs such as the debate team who is currently competing. The quiz bowl team is also competing. The current members are all seniors, so if teachers know of underclassman that would make great members for the quiz bowl, please let her know. We will be hosting a competition on Saturday, November 21, 2009. Poetry slam will take place in December.
- New Business - None
- Conclusion
 - Next Meeting, December 8, 2009, Tuesday 6:30 pm
 - Dismissed at 7:28 pm