

Central School Parent Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

November 15th, 2012

Gifted & Talented Program: An update was provided detailing the recent revisions made to the district's GATE program. A preliminary schedule was shared of services supporting grades 1 & 2. The possibility of an early AM Math Excel group was explained similar to the SmartStart program being implemented for intervention purposes. Michael Stewart will be the shared GATE teacher between Liberty and Central Schools.

Basic Skills / Enrichment: A description of the Basic Skills Instruction (BSI) program was provided along with how student placement is determined. Ms. Mary Redus serves as the BSI teacher at Central. The types of assessments used were also discussed along with Mary's role in the SmartStart program. The enrichment piece was discussed during the GATE conversation.

AIMSweb / Linkit – student assessment tools: The district uses several assessment tools to determine student growth and progress, placement in certain classes, and to monitor student progress in core subject areas. At the elementary level Central School uses the AIMSweb assessment tool which assesses students in multiple language arts areas, and in mathematical concepts and computational skills. These reports may be shared at parent teacher conferences or other meetings used to discuss student academic issues.

Hackettstown School District used the AIMSweb tool during the 2011-2012 school year, but transitioned to Linkit for the 2012-2013 school year. To remain consistent with student assessments as they transition to the Hackettstown School District, Great Meadows may consider using the Linkit system. We are having discussions and exploring the benefits gained from the possible switch to Linkit from AIMSweb.

New Teacher Evaluation Model: Parents were introduced to the new developments state-wide as a result of New Jersey's application to be exempt from NCLB federal guidelines. This move requires school districts to adopt a new teacher evaluation model that links teacher performance to student performance with expanded areas of teacher and administrative accountability. GMRSD has adopted the Charlotte Danielson Model with piloting set to begin in January of 2013. The district will move with full implementation in September of 2013. The new model consists of two primary areas; teacher performance, and student performance.

Teacher Performance: Fifty percent of a teacher's evaluation will be based upon instructional performance. This would include planning and instruction, the classroom environment and culture, the collaborative relationships with staff and parents, and the continued pursuit of remaining a highly effective and highly trained educator.

Student Performance: The other fifty percent of a teacher's evaluation will be based upon overall student performance. This percentage would be determined by the use of in-house assessments, end of unit tests, standardized tests, and / or other common assessments created by or for the school or district.

Upcoming Events / Dates:

Dec. 12 th	GMR PTO
Dec. 10 th -14 th	Holiday Shopping Bizarre
Dec. 12 th	Fitness Frenzy Assembly for students
Dec. 13 th	December PAC meeting
Dec. 17 th	BOE meeting
Dec. 19 th	AAA Otto the Talking Car Assembly for students
Dec. 21 st	Early Dismissal / Teacher In-service

In Attendance:

Ms. E. Wagner (2nd grade)
Ms. S. Schaffer (1st grade)
Mr. E. Batha (Principal)