

Accountability Committee Meeting August 13, 2013

Committee Members in Attendance: Michael Collins, Stephanie Dodd, Tom Gunlock, C. Todd Jones, Debe Terhar, Bryan Williams

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Chair Gunlock called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. He asked for a motion to accept the July 8, 2013 minutes. Mrs. Terhar motioned, Mr. Collins seconded the motion and all committee members agreed. Motion passed.

K-3 Literacy Measure Review

Chris Woolard discussed calculation options for the K-3 Literacy Measure, emphasizing that it is an improvement measure, not an achievement measure.

Dr. Woolard explained three ways to evaluate K-3 literacy data:

1. Looking primarily at changes and percentages of growth
 - Tends to reward the lower performing schools
2. Looking primarily at percentage points
 - Simple to understand, but caps the number of points a high performing school could get to obtain an A
3. “On-Track Improvement Model” points structure
 - Looks at year-to-year data of kids that are not on-track
 - Is not capped for high performing schools *and* does not reward too little effort on the low end

Committee members agreed that option 3 is best, and discussed a possible need for demotions for students never on a plan or who were on a plan and were removed from it, who then score below proficient on the OAA.

Dr. Woolard asked the committee to consider the issue of student mobility as it pertains to K-3 literacy – “what kids count and where”.

1. Count all kids that are there
 - Addresses the mobility issue but doesn’t factor improvement
2. Only count kids who are there for both points in time
 - May not capture highly mobile and most at-risk kids

After much discussion, all agreed that the proper method is option 2 - to count students who are there at two points in time unless they are coming from a community school or from outside the district.

How to structure the assignment of letter grades?

1. Standard deviation method
 - The statewide average would be based on the bottom of the C with standard deviations used to create A, B, D and F range
 - It would cause a lot of Cs and Ds
2. Flexible ranges method
 - The statewide average would be based on the bottom of the C with three equal ranges above that becoming the A, B and C. An equally-sized range would determine a D and everything below that would be an F grade.
 - Would change year to year based on the statewide average

Committee members agreed that option 2 is the preferable method for structuring the assignment of letter grades.

Wrap-Up and Adjournment

The Accountability Committee will reconvene on Monday, September 9th after the September State Board of Education meeting. The purpose of that meeting will be to review, approve and vote the language out of committee. Committee members agreed to a high-level presentation on Tuesday of the September meeting of the State Board of Education.

Chair Gunlock asked for a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Terhar motioned and Mr. Collins seconded the motion. All committee members voted in agreement, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.