

ICHABOD CRANE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Board of Education Academic Committee

March 5, 2024

5:45pm

Central Office Conference Room

Agenda

Committee Members In Attendance: Elizabeth Phillips*, Anne Schaefer, Jennifer Allard, Marie Digirolamo, Lucas Christensen, Berit Erickson

Q2 Report

The district is on track for reaching the target set for graduation rate and course failure rates. Multiple levels of support such as: creative programming, credit recovery, tiered study halls and through Google Meet tutoring, have been implemented to assist students in reaching this goal. The Google Meet tutoring would be offered to students and families at the discretion of their content area teacher. Students then meet with an ICC staff member to get assistance with homework, etc. during this Google Meet session. There was some discussion during our committee meeting about offering face to face meetings outside of the school day, if it was supported by staff to further support students who are struggling academically. The committee also reflected the differences in the course failure rates between the Middle School and High School, and it was noted that these rates should not be “compared” as expectations of content and skills vary, as well as strategies to meet the needs of students. The district is also exploring the concept of grading for equity and how it might look different depending on the content and skills for a particular course. .

Progress towards reading and math targets through the use of iReady are on track for most grade levels K-8. The district is hopeful that the progress students are demonstrating through the iReady platform will translate into increased proficiency rates on the NYS ELA and Math assessments to be administered later this month in April and May this calendar year. The committee discussed future plans for supporting increased proficiency rates on state level assessments once students have leveled out of the iReady Platform. To further students' academic progress “next steps conversations” are ongoing among appropriate district staff.

The district continues its collaboration with RBERN (Regional Bilingual Education Resource Network) and Questar to support needs for all students. Goals are set for specific student populations that meet the needs of students beyond what is available with iReady.

Math Program Selection

The district is in the process of selecting a Math Program for the primary and middle schools and continues to follow similar processes to the reading program. Staff members are engaging in committee work to discuss: what math instruction looks like, what are the state's expectations, trends in research, when it happens, and what does mathematical discourse look like within a classroom? The concept of building thinking mathematics classrooms will be timed with the BOCES specialist assisting the group level setting around their discussions. Then a meeting with a small steering group, will select a few finalists programs to evaluate during set meeting times. Passing on programs for a large stakeholder rubric to evaluate.

Reading Program Updates

The district continues their second year of implementation with CKLA, and its first year of benchmarking. The data is aligned to state outcomes, therefore we are teaching what is measured on the state assessments for ELA and Math. Progress toward the benchmarks for year one in grades 4-6 are ongoing, and the materials developed by the 6th grade teachers were asked to Ambassadors for teachers VA. There has been a lot of progress with the implementation of CKLA in grades 4-5, as they continue to meet and troubleshoot to overcome any challenges with implementation.

Coaching Position & Grant Funded Student-Support Positions

During our last meeting the Board proposed that funding be allocated to permanently embed a Teaching Coach to support staff in implementing curriculum for both ELA and Math. Currently, the district has employed a Teacher on Special Assignment to fill the role of a Literacy Coach who has been invaluable in supporting the needs of staff in multiple areas.

Additional positions that were grant funded to support students' needs are now being moved into the current budget for the 2024-2025 school year. Funding is being allocated to support the following positions:

- Special Edu teacher
- New school social workers
- Psychologist
- School counselor
- AIS at HS

Next Steps

- Riders Pathway Meetings 23/24

Academic Committee Meetings

- June Academic Committee Meeting

