

MINUTES of Operating Board Meeting
December 9, 2010

Call to order: A regular meeting of the Alignment Rockford Operating Board was held at Nelson Elementary School, Rockford, Illinois, on Dec. 9, 2010. The meeting convened at 4:10 p.m., Chairman Jeff Hultman presiding.

Members in attendance:		
Mike Bacon (4/4)	Bob Guirl (4/4)	Rodney Prunty (2/4)
Kurt Broski (3/4)	Char Hearn (4/4)	Tracy Stevenson-Olson (3/4)
Darcy Bucholz (4/4)	Wray Howard (4/4)	Barbara Swanson (3/3)
Glen Burress (3/3)	Jeff Hultman, Chair (4/4)	Glenda Turner (3/4)
Doug Burton (2/3)	Christie Jarrett (4/4)	Rudy Valdez (4/4)
Rena Cotsones (3/3)	Cedric Lewis (4/4)	Mark Wallace (3/4)
John Cressman (3/4)	Jon Malone (4/4)	Rosalyn Wesley (1/4)
Colleen Cyrus (4/4)	Tom McKeivitt (3/4)	Linda Zuba (3/3)
Theo Glover (2/4)	Laurie Preece, Vice Chair (3/4)	
Members absent:		
Gordon Eggers (0/4)	Bill Pruyne (1/4)	Tim Rollins (3/4)
Shurice Hunter (1/3)		
Staff in attendance: Diane Peters		

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Mike Bacon, and seconded to approve the minutes of the Nov. 18, 2010 meeting. Motion carried. Glenda then later requested that in the K-5 committee report, her group be described as “eager” rather than “anxious.”

Future Areas of Study: An outline of topics for the next three meetings was reviewed.

Committee Reports: The chairs and vice chairs of the Grades 9-12 Pathways, Grades K-8 Behavioral Health, Grades K-5 Reading and Math, and Ages 0-4 Healthy Starts committees reported on their status.

- Grades 9-12, Mark Wallace – This committee has come to consensus on strategy, selecting RPS Strategy 5.1.4 for its focus: *Promote a proactive guidance counseling program that empowers students to make responsible choices about their social, scholastic and future professional lives.* They view counseling from a global standpoint and will be focused on aspects of making responsible social, scholastic and future professional choices. From a long-term perspective, they sent a group to Nashville to investigate high school academies. The planning phase of this project could approach five years. They plan to divide the Pathways committee into three groups to work on:
 - Academy model/design
 - Career Awareness (for example, pairing students with businesses). CEANCI has a grant for Career Cruising and may be collaborating with the K-8 committee.
 - Matrices for measurements of success. Operating Board members offered counsel on what could be used as leading indicators:
 - Increased attendance.

- Number of students going on to higher education. National Student Clearinghouse tracks employment.
- Standardized tests.

Proficiency is evaluated by the Access test. It might be helpful for the RPS bilingual person to attend the next Operating Board meeting.

- Grades K-8, Jon Malone – This committee has identified its objective statement and also selected RPS strategy 5.1.4. This strategy contains the three domains included in the developmental counseling model – academic, career development, and personal/social development which includes character development. The Board discussed which of the three should be the focus of the committee. Benchmarks and goals can be found at the National Association of School Counselors. Career is the end result, but the other two domains are needed for a good foundation. Measurables need to include not just what you do but how you do your job. A blend of what and how is critical. Kids make college and career decisions based on exposure early on. **Laurie will look for research on this.** Kids need to be taught how to be part of a team.
- Grades K-5, Tracy Stevenson-Olson and Glenda Turner – This committee surveyed principals at the lowest performing elementary schools. Three themes emerged:
 - Mentors are needed for parents and students.
 - After-school programs are needed.
 - Connections are needed with the community and targeting families at Kindergarten. This topic was determined to be the most important. The committee discussed how to build relationships and talked about measures.
- Ages 0-4, Colleen Cyrus and Glen Burress – This committee finished hearing presentations on greatest needs. Each committee member identified needs they believe to be the greatest and posted them under Literacy, Health, or Social/Emotional headings. Health had the fewest votes; needs were equally spread across the other two. Parent support was the biggest need and overlapped across all areas.
- Technology Ad Hoc, Doug Burton – A survey of committee members was conducted, indicating a need for enhanced technology and a broad range of use. Next step is to define specifications; the group will meet on Dec. 10 and will include usability experts. Target completion date is June, 2011.

Executive Director’s Report: Because time was running short, **Laurie will post her presentation on the Operating Board page of our web site.** Some items of note:

- Nashville was further back than we are when they started. Current ACT composite score is 15 vs. Rockford’s 18.1.
- Nashville links are on the Operating Board page of our site.
- Alignment Nashville uses Ford Next Generation Learning which rests on three pillars – redesigning high schools, transforming teaching, and engaging civic and business support to stabilize and sustain the District’s redesign and implementation efforts.
- Community offers support in the academies. Success metrics include an ACT of 21.
- **Board members should view the PowerPoint presentation on branding schools.**
- Sydney Rogers will be in Rockford on Dec. 10 and will meet with the Evaluation Committee and technology group. We’ll talk with her about applying for cooperative grants. Alignment Nashville wants to replicate their model.

- There was no offense intended by the Register Star reporter in the Alignment Rockford “sadly laughable” reference. Their intent was that internal District alignment needs to be resolved before external alignment can occur.
- Laurie offered public comment at the recent special School Board meeting.
- A volunteer from this Board is requested to attend the Boston College webinar, “Bringing Business to the Table on Education” on Jan. 12 at 11:00 at Anderson Gardens. **Barbara Swanson volunteered.**

District Organization, Reporting Structure: Reporting structure organizational charts were distributed, but Cedric’s presentation was tabled due to lack of time.

Adjournment: Motion made by Rudy Valdez, and seconded to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Next meeting:

Thursday, Jan. 13, 2011
4:00 p.m.
King Elementary School
1306 S. Court St.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Peters
Office Manager