



Academic Committee  
March 8, 2022  
Director of Communication Office

**Participants:**

Joan Stidham, Director of Teaching & Learning  
Megan Rivet, Director of Student Services  
Lisa Whiteley, Director of Communications  
Adam Biedenbach, Principal  
Holly Simms, Principal  
Ryan McDonald, Board of Education  
Michelle Richards, Parent/Community Member

\*Please know that no decisions were made during this meeting. The purpose of this committee is to discuss the academics of the Three Rivers Local School District. Any District decisions are made during Board of Education meetings. These meeting dates can be found on the Three Rivers Local School District website.

**1) Welcome and Agenda Review**

**2) Elementary Updates**

a) Peer Professional Learning

Mr. Biedenbach discusses new processes around peer professional learning.

- discussed the gaps in learning from covid - and the intentional focus to close the gaps
- talked to his entire teaching staff to identify challenges (i.e. enough time) - this was the staff meeting focus
- decided to do an opportunity for peers to observe peers throughout the day
- focused on using individual strengths to share with peers
- this opportunity was open for anyone to offer peer visitors into their classroom
- Mrs. Conley and Mr. Biedenbach covered classrooms while these observations took place so that teachers did not have to use their plan time to do this
- teachers were able to observe in grades different than their own to better understand where students came from and are going
- observations were fifteen minutes
- everyone in the building did at least one peer observation (including instructional support staff)
- only negative feedback they received was that it was too short and they wanted more time to discuss what they saw and learned from
- Joan touched on the idea that when teachers visit other teachers, they learn more than what they were hoping to from a visit to another classroom
- staff have found time on their own to debrief about what they learned from their visit - there is also time during their staff meeting(s)

- the goal is to have time within the day to have small group instruction in each classroom.
- Ryan McDonald asked about doing the same thing for principals to go “peer review” other principals in the area
- Mrs. Richards asked about peer professional opportunities outside of Three Rivers. The group discussed ways for teachers to learn and grow throughout their professional career.
- TRLSD is looking into visiting area schools next school year on professional development days

### **3) Middle School Updates**

#### **a) Scheduling Electives**

- Mrs. Simms provided elective changes for grades 5-8 - looking to expand options based on parent and student feedback
- TMS uses Jacket Time for intervention (based off of MAP tests or benchmark scores) - they have identified that some students that are in Jacket Time need to also be in their specials classes that meet their need/passion (i.e. PE)
- every student would be in one elective for the whole quarter
- 5th grade choir concerts would be held at the end of each quarter, during the school day - these would be streamed live for any parents/guardians unable to attend
- STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) and exploratory sign language classes are two of the additional electives being considered for 8th-grade electives.
- these electives are being considered but many do depend on staffing
- Mr. McDonald asked what the down side of these changes would be - Mrs. Simms said some staff likes the current Jacket Time schedule
- They have listened to all grade level teams to ensure they have thought about everything and these changes are best for students and the Taylor Middle School schedule
- these changes will lead to less time in transition and more time in the classroom
- create external communication for this so that the board can view the new changes

### **4) Adoption Update**

- this is still in progress
- hoping to bring the adoption to the board in May
- there are some staff piloting this right now

### **5) April 18th PD Day**

- TRLSD “Thrive in the Hive” Staff Professional Development

### **6) Summer Programs**

- 404 students enrolled to date
- still have a little over 100 spots available
- grade level distribution is pretty evenly distributed
- there are some student groups that will volunteer to help during these summer opportunities

### **7) Other**

- April 19th - 8:00 am - CT Young

### **8) Set Next Meeting date**

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