

WICKENBURG UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 9
BOARD STUDY SESSION MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Joe Maglio, President, Mr. Curtis Arnett, Member, Ms. Amy Brown, Member, Ms. Sandee Gill, Member, Mr. Daniel Scott, Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Howard Carlson, Victoria Farrar, Lynn Greene, Derek Streeter, Jennifer Lougee, Jacquie Cleys, Tiffany Schuck

Wickenburg High School's School Improvement Plan, Mr. Derek Streeter, Principal

Mr. Streeter stated the current year is being considered as a transition year, as the state is moving from AIMS to AzMERIT for standardized testing, and will be considered a baseline year. The main focus will be on the End of Course (EOC) exams and the American College Testing (ACT) Quality Core.

Goal 1: Increase State Growth Indicator by 5%

With the ultimate goal of increasing growth indicator by 5%, by August 2016, 10th grade students in the bottom 25% in Extended Algebra courses will be identified by the instructional coach and math department. By the end of August 2015, gaps and deficiencies for each student will be identified in writing and targeted by teachers, instructional coach, counselors and Special Educators.

Goal 2: Put All Students on a Four-Year Plan

The goal is to put all students on a four-year plan. Students' plans will be designed by the principal and counselors. All parents of freshmen and sophomores will be invited to four-year plan meeting by end of the first semester. Once a plan has been established, changes will be done with parent input. Changes done to 4 year plans are done with parent input.

Goal #3: English Language Arts (ELA) - Align with the established foundation of the Wickenburg Unified School District and the CAILL Framework

The ELA department will finalize all CAILL Framework pacing calendars, CAILL Framework aligned unwrapped documents, and the ACT Quality Core ELA Benchmarking system.

Goal #4: Math - Align with the established foundation of the Wickenburg Unified School District and the CAILL Framework

The Math department will complete all NCEE training and complete all pacing calendars, and CAILL Framework aligned unwrapped documents, for ACT Algebra I and ACT Geometry.

Mr. Scott asked Mr. Streeter if, when teaching towards tests, we are missing particular parts that are important, but not on the test. Mr. Streeter told him this was true of AIMS Testing. AzMERIT and the EOC's are not tests that prevent a student from graduating if they fail. Mr. Scott asked, if we had none of these tests and want to prepare kids for geometry, do you think this is better or worse? Mr. Streeter told him both. He said he had taught math. Classes were less consistent for students moving from one class to another or from one school to another. He also commented that with the testing, there is some loss of independent creativity teachers used to bring to the classroom. He commented he does favor the

Common Core because of the consistencies. Dr. Carlson comment that when you look at the content, they have looked at what it takes to be successful in college, and we are better off because we have a consistent standard to teach to.

Ms. Brown asked what Mr. Streeter saw, when a class is senior, what percentage will pass the EOC's. He told her it was hard to say. Students are encouraged to pass the EOC's, but it is not legally required.

Goal 5: Weekly Walkthroughs

Each administrator (Principal and Teachers on Special Assignment [TOSA]) will be responsible for conducting walkthroughs for a set of teachers every quarter. The principal will forward the quarterly lists to the superintendent. The principal and TOSA's will calibrate results from observations to ensure consistency

Mr. Maglio commented that in beginning of the presentation, Mr. Streeter spoke about face to face meetings with parents concerning the four-year plan. He asked if a student does not want to take a certain class and has spoken with the counselor, but the meeting does not pan out, do they have the parent sign off. Mr. Streeter told him a student can't change the four-year plan without consultation with parents.

Ms. Gill asked if any language other than Spanish were offered. Mr. Streeter told her at this time, only Spanish is offered. He commented one of the difficulties for a smaller school is the ability to find someone to teach a specialty class at a part time salary. He also said that, although the option of online programs had not yet been explored, they would be looking into this option.

Mr. Arnett commented he learned a lot from this presentation. He said he appreciated the demographics and the achievement data. Two things that caught his eye. In targeting each individual student, he felt the schools should be doing their best for each student; if this is done, things like test scores will take care of themselves. The four-year plan seems to accomplish what is really needed to done by touching parents, making them involved and part of the program. On the role of testing, self-knowledge is one of the most important things a student can get. He commented he will look forward to hearing how this all comes out.

Vulture Peak Middle School, Ms. Jennifer Lougee, Principal

The Vulture Peak Middle School Improvement Plan includes strategies for improvement in four key areas of School Culture, Curriculum/Academics, Parent/Community Involvement and Professional Development and Leadership Capacity Building. These four key areas are identified in the District Strategic Portfolio and align Vulture Peak Middle School with Title I requirements and the charter school application.

School Culture - Vision: The administration will involve parents, teachers, staff, and students in creating a positive academic culture.

Ms. Lougee told the Board they were doing what is called a Culture Campaign. They are working to engage parents and keep them informed on how they can support their child. They are using tools such as Connect Ed, Facebook and YouTube to encourage parent participation. The success of the campaign will be measured by parent survey results.

Character Counts - Vulture Peak is encouraging students by developing and participating in projects such as the Soles for Souls Project and the Turkeys and Tables Event – Community Outreach.

Curriculum/Academics - Vision: The administrative team will target focused District Formative Assessments (DFA's) in identified major clusters centered on fractions, decimals and integers.

The use of Eureka Math, which is a new program this year, and Beyond Textbooks will be continued. DFA data will be analyzed on a quarterly basis through "Data Digs" and compared to student performance on the Galileo assessment.

Parent and Community Involvement - Vision: Active parent and community involvement at Vulture Peak Middle School.

Ms. Tiffany Schuck told the Board Vulture Peak is working to get parents involved with school. A couple of ways of accomplishing this are:

- Hosting a Principal's Coffee at least once quarterly
- Continue to utilize current volunteers
- Actively engage new volunteers in partnership with the Communications and Grant Specialist.
- Collaborate with parent and community organizations, such as PTA, Del E. Webb Center, Eve's Place, Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce, Elks, Lion's Club, McDonalds, etc.
- Update Vulture Peak Facebook page with daily weekly and monthly celebrations and events.

Professional Development and Leadership Capacity Building - Vision: Teachers will meet in bi-weekly Professional Learning Communities to ensure consistent use of district resources.

Mr. Maglio expressed his appreciation for the presentation.

Ms. Gill asked about Eve's Place. Ms. Lougee told her Eve's Place works with kids on anti-bullying. Ms. Gill asked about PLC's (Professional learning Community). She was told the middle school level is formally a team meeting, but there is much more to it than that. It has become more of an educated meeting.

Mr. Arnett expressed appreciation for the time put into the plan, commenting it gave him an overview of the middle school by presenting information he had not known before. He said he would appreciate more academic data as it becomes available.

ATTEST: _____

Mr. Joe Maglio, Board President