

District Employee Advocacy Committee minutes for March '09

Reductions in force for next year?

*While it is too early to predict the 2009-10 budget, the intention is to maintain a status quo budget with a similar workforce as the current year. As our local budget does not depend heavily on sales tax revenue, our situation should not be as gloomy as those of surrounding counties.*

We are hearing that internet accessibility will be cut to teachers and students but will remain available for administrators for administrative work.

*Absolutely not! At one point, the state referenced some potential cut backs to internet access due to the budget shortfall. However, there was never an intention of not providing internet access to the entire district by the district. Due to the stimulus funds, the state may be able to continue their current level of service.*

Why weren't the minutes posted from the last meeting?

*Because many of the questions had been addressed at past meetings.*

SHS wrote a specific attendance policy for the policy and procedures committee - why has it not been addressed?

*In checking with Mr. Jones, he does not remember getting such a policy. We've asked the SHS rep to please forward a copy to us.*

If a teacher is in the hospital during the mandatory PD days, why can't a sick day be used?

*In any policy, there must be some leeway for extenuating circumstances. This teacher has been asked to check with the payroll clerk – Mrs. Linda Perry – concerning the days that have been used so far.*

Students some times avoid upper level classes for fear of hurting their GPA. Could we narrow down the valedictorian or salutatorian to one each by bringing in the ACT score?

*This idea may certainly have merit. If secondary staff members are interested in this idea, I would encourage them to submit a potential policy for consideration.*

What plans are there for students who don't do well on the PLAN test?

*Currently, the PLAN test is used by the secondary guidance counselors and administrators to schedule students in appropriate courses.*

Are we setting up opportunities for teaching teachers how to be a facilitator or successfully use peer tutoring?

*These instructional methods are covered within the differentiated instruction model. Professional development opportunities are ongoing in these areas. I would also recommend checking out the PD360 website. They offer a wealth of PD opportunities.*

Haven't found the mentoring program effective. My mentor only met with me one time last year. It is a little better this year. Why can't we have a teacher induction program?

*I will share your thoughts with Mrs. Williams who oversees the mentoring program. Several years ago, we initiated a new teacher induction program. The thought was to revert back to just a mentoring program. This certainly provides food for thought.*

*We do want the very best mentoring program available. I would encourage others to let us know if this is an isolated incident or if it is more widespread.*

I need help to design a website for school. Could some one show me how?

*Yes, I've asked Mrs. Enters if she could arrange for someone to offer a class on website design for any interested staff member. Please watch for upcoming announcements.*

Does someone check on employee's facebook accounts?

*Yes, the parents and students. If there is something inappropriate posted on facebook or myspace accounts, I can almost guarantee you that someone will find it and bring it to our attention. There is no current policy on an employee's facebook or myspace accounts as such could be taken as an invasion of personal privacy unless it contains conduct unbecoming a member of the teaching profession. I would recommend caution when posting on such internet social sights.*

Could our social security number be taken off our pay stubs?

*According to Mrs. Tillman, social security numbers have always been on our pay stubs – not just with the new format. As with any item which bears an identifying number, I would encourage caution. If this is a concern with employees, I would recommend contacting CCEA.*