

Lionheart Classical Academy

Academic Oversight Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting date: April 1, 2024

Present: Lori Finn, Richard Merkt, Kerry Bedard

Call to order: 5:12 pm

This was the first meeting of the Academic Committee. We reviewed the oversight responsibilities of the committee, including:

- Academic goals and benchmarks
- Standardized assessment results vs state and district results
- Academic achievement trends for subgroups. How are we addressing concerning trends?
- Systems to monitor academic growth and identify students needing interventions
- Teacher observation and feedback (frequency, method, focus)
- Professional development
- Evaluating effectiveness and ROI of academic programs and initiatives
- How can the Board support academic performance goals?

Discussion:

1. **School calendar (AY2024-2025)** – Executive Director Bedard is in the process of developing the school calendar for the upcoming year. It will be largely similar to current calendar for K-5. More hours are required for 7th grade, so a separate schedule will be developed for grades 6-7. With the team-teaching model that will be implemented for those grades next year, parent-teacher conferences will need to be adjusted anyway, so some of the hours could come from some of the conference days. A back-to-school night would allow parents to talk to teachers of all subjects, with the possibility of meeting with the homeroom teacher for a conference. Both schedules will be presented to the committee at the next meeting. For AY2025-2026, this process should start in January.

Action: ED Bedard will complete the calendars and present at the 5/6/24 Academic Committee meeting.

2. **Academic reporting** – Kerry proposed presenting an academic report to the Board quarterly. To finish this year, she will present one report for the end of the year, and then next year, the reports will be presented quarterly. The committee discussed what information to include in the report so that it provides meaningful information yet doesn't provide excessive burden to collect or present in the report. Items discussed for inclusion: K-3 regular reading assessment results, who is on target, etc; reading assessment results for older children too (they aren't completed as frequently); state assessment results; % of students with IEPs, RTI, in process of receiving services; qualitative information discussing the general types of services needed; unit math test results for all grades; include standardized grading guidelines to help with interpretation.

Action: ED Bedard will design a template and present at the 5/6/24 Academic Committee meeting.

3. School needs related to academic performance – The curriculum materials for 7th grade and up do not include lesson plans, lectures, homework, classwork, assessments, etc., so 7th grade science, literature/writing, and geography/history teachers will have to create these during the summer. Aside from hiring these teachers, Kerry is looking to provide a stipend for this summer work that will need to be completed this year.

Latin has been added once/week. Next year, there is a Latin teacher in the budget. Kerry suggested the possibility of also adding a Spanish or French teacher. There was a question as to whether an additional language could fit in the schedule with everything else. The Hillsdale curriculum commits to providing Latin for 7th - 9th grade, then offering French or Spanish as an elective (along with Latin as an elective) in 10th grade. The committee agreed to postpone adding another language at this time based on Hillsdale.

Kerry stated there is an urgent need for hiring teachers. She completed the job descriptions for the teachers, and they are flexible enough to allow for career changers. Openings have been posted on website, and there has been interest already.

Meeting adjourned: 6:08 pm

These minutes were approved on 5/6/2024