



Academic Committee Meeting
Lionheart Classical Academy
Monday, August 19, 2024 @ 5:00 pm

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 5:08 pm. The following people were in attendance: Sarah Paradis, Kenneth Dobbs, Lori Finn, Kevin McDonald, and Ilda Bara. There were no public comments. Approval of minutes from the 6/3/2024 meeting will be deferred to the 9/9 meeting.

Discussion:

1. Faculty & Staff: Principal Dobbs reported that nearly all of the open positions are now filled, which is a remarkable accomplishment. The only position we need to fill academically is kindergarten. One of the TA positions is filled, but they can't start until January, so we are also looking for someone to fill a temporary position. Internally, we have some systems in place in the event that the kindergarten position is still open at the start of the year.

2. Fall Assessments & Reporting: Principal Dobbs reported that they are still determining which fall assessments will be implemented. Fiona Byrne has reached out to other Hillsdale schools to see how they assess. We need to determine if implementing the Classical Learning Test is feasible for the fall. We have used DIBELS for reading benchmarks, and there was previous discussion about the possibilities of using IXL to math fact fluency for Grades 3-7 to eliminate the need for additional testing. We need some measure of reading and math in the fall for all grades. Principal Dobbs will meet with Ms. Byrne and Jordan McCarthy to formulate a practical plan. He will also look to access NHSAS data from Spring 2024 state testing. The board would like a report on assessment results hopefully at the October board meeting. This should include Spring 2024 state assessment results, reading and math fall assessment for all grades, CTL results from the fall if implemented. We would also like to see a comparison of LCA state assessment results to both state and ConVal results.

Action Items:

- Ms. Byrne will connect with other Hillsdale schools.
- Principal Dobbs will meet with Ms. Byrne & Ms. McCarthy to develop a fall assessment plan.
- Principal Dobbs will plan to report Spring 2024 state assessment results and fall assessment results from math, reading, and CTL if available at October or November board meeting

3. Professional Development: Principal Dobbs distributed the Professional Development Schedule to all faculty and staff and will email to the board. The Literacy Essentials training is set to begin shortly for both teachers and TAs. He has also been coordinating safety training with Peterborough PD. Kevin McDonald volunteered to look for specialty safety trainers, as coordinating with Peterborough PD has been challenging.

Action Item: Mr. McDonald will explore safety trainers from outside Peterborough for future training.

4. Science Cabinet: Heather Gagnon and Dominick Dubravec will be working on stocking the science cabinet which will be housed by the old lost and found area. Ilda Bara volunteered to help. Materials have been ordered, so essentials should be in place for the start of the school year.

5. Committee Organization: Principal Dobbs is deciding whether he will be a part of the Academic Committee. We would like to invite 1-2 teachers to join for a one-year term, provided this is not prohibited by the charter. Trustee Finn will confirm with the board chair.

Action Items: Trustee Finn will discuss with board chair.

6. Academic Needs:

- *School Supplies Policy:* Principal Dobbs reported needing a policy on school supplies. What will the school buy for the students? Teachers are making lists of materials now. Principal Dobbs will start working on the policy with Leah Seymour.
- *Policy on Classroom Bookshelf Content:* Principal Dobbs reported also needing a policy on acceptable content for classroom bookshelves. Previously, administration went through all of the books to determine if they were acceptable. Principal Dobbs would like a more objective, less labor-intensive policy. Sarah Paradis will explore guidelines from Hillsdale. There is also the possibility of limiting books to specific Hillsdale K-12 books, but not limiting it to grade level.

Action Items:

- Principal Dobbs will work on school supplies policy with Ms. Seymour
- Ms. Paradis will explore Hillsdale guidelines for acceptable books.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 pm. Next meeting: September 9, 2024 @ 5 p.m.

These minutes were approved on 9/9/2024.