

**Winnetka Public Schools
Board of Education**

Special Assessment Meeting – Approved 10/27/2009
September 15, 2009

A special meeting of the Board of Education District 36 was held in the Resource Center of Carleton Washburne Middle School on September 15, 2009. The purpose of this meeting was to inform Board members of the different methods of Assessing/Reporting/Conferencing processes that are currently in place throughout the District.

PRESENT: School Board Members: Nancy Fehrenbach
Susan Whitcomb
Dana Crumley
Van Barletta
Beth Moritz Fiilp
Anne Kelly

Absent: Jon Kaplan

Others Present: Dr. Mary Herrmann, Superintendent
Dan Schwartz, Principal Washburne
Steve Schacherer, Asst Principal Washburne
Tom Eber, Principal Skokie
Alison Hawley, Asst. Principal Skokie
Mike Fehrenbacher, Asst. Principal Skokie
Deirdre Lye, Principal Crow Island
Mark Ditthardt, Director of Pupil Services
Julie Pfeffer, Director of Curriculum
Terri Erickson, TOSA

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Barletta, Board President, called the meeting to order at 4:37pm on Tuesday, September 14, 2009.

II. ROLL CALL

Ms. Moritz Filip took Roll Call of the School Board.

III. DISCUSSION

Ms. Julie Pfeffer, Curriculum Coordinator for District 36, gave a synopsis of the ARC procedures that are currently in place throughout the District.

Historically:

- ISATS were initially given at grades 3, 5 and 8th grades 10-12 years ago. Math, Reading and writing were the areas tested. At that time, IOWA tests were also given in 4th and 6th grades
- In 2005 the state of Illinois determined that every grade level would be taking reading and math. Writing has been added over time. ISATS became the standardized test that were administered to all grade levels.
- District 36 convened ARC in 2007. Around this time, RTI was mandated to begin in January of 2008; the committee began to look for universal screeners and other relevant norms that existed across the District. Since that time, the Literacy Assessment Plan was developed for grades 1 through 6 and implemented.

Currently:

- Multiple screeners are used throughout the K-4 grades. Additional screeners are being looked into for the Middle Schools. To date, however, none have been useful in all areas of testing. This is a problem that exists both at other local districts as well as nationwide.
- This year Washburne will be piloting a writing screener that was developed by D36 for all 7th graders. It will be given at the beginning of the year and scored by the English department. A second screener will be given at the end of 7th grade. Science, Social Studies and English teachers will grade the second screener, thus enabling all disciplines of writing to be represented and assessed.
- K-4 has common metrics, language and sequences of assessment that are used throughout the District. Three times a year, by grade level – with all specialists and teachers present - meetings are held to take an in depth look at each child. Different diagnostic tools are used through out the year to gather this information.

In the Future, What is needed?

- More parent education around assessment.
- Consistent measures that exist throughout the District
- Determine what the critical piece of information is to share with parents re: assessment and data of children
- Differentiation of higher end children, assessment and plans to be discussed

- How to make the assessment piece more understandable in reporting to parents?
- Math assessment will be worked on and will be in place at the end of this school year
- K-6 common assessment piece is already in place
- More standardized conferencing will be looked at and worked on with WTI
- Additional placement processes will be put into place in Skokie and Washburne as the District moves into a new leveling process for math – this is a longer term assessment piece that is unclear to date – exists in 6/7 grade

- Working on determining local norms

- Washburne - next roundtable will be on new curricular initiatives

- A more standardized communication piece will be created regarding assessment to be used by teachers and Administrators to help parents better understand the processes currently in place will be created and implemented

IV. MEETING ADJOURNED

The meeting was dismissed at 6:39pm by mutual consent.