

responsible for the observation and appraisal of science teachers, as well as the science supervisor.

Dr. Shapiro asked what the budgetary impact would be. Dr. Bompadre said that this is something that Mrs. Mecouch will have to review. Dr. Horowitz noted that not all labs require the use of chemicals. The class may have critical problem solving to do using a computer program. Dr. Shapiro and Mrs. Kauffman said that Mrs. Mecouch should approach the Board if money is needed.

5.02 Essential Questions for Science

Dr. Bompadre presented some essential questions that were prepared by Mrs. Mecouch. Dr. Bompadre noted that essential questions can be thematic or about major issues or problems. Essential questions are not a rewrite of a teaching objective. Supervisors will continue to work with teachers on how to develop good essential questions.

5.03 PSSA Data 2009 (Power Point Presentation)

An informative Power Point presentation was shown to the committee regarding the PSSA data. Dr. Bompadre used the same format as she did in June. This is another way to relate the data back to the teacher. Percentages can sometimes be overwhelming, therefore, data is shared with the elementary teachers by the number of students who are in each category by grade level.

Although the data presented some red flags, there really were not very many. Dr. Bompadre requires the principals to keep track of what services the students were receiving or if new students entered the district.

Dr. Shapiro stated that the one fairly common thing in the slides is that the Basic and Below Basic are at a fairly steady state. When you look at a COHORT, if they started out at Basic and Below Basic, for a wide variety of reasons, we have not been able to move them up. There are more variations with what happens in the Advanced and Proficient students. What can the district do to meet AYP? Dr. Bompadre said that all school districts are concerned about meeting AYP. Dr. Bompadre also mentioned that data will be reviewed by supervisors to see what patterns begin to form.

Mrs. Kauffman noted that the data reflects 5% of the students that are Below Basic. She asked how much energy and resources do we use for students whose PSSA scores are Below Basic?

Dr. Bompadre said it is important that we not judge a student solely on a PSSA score, the big picture must be looked at.

Dr. Bompadre told the committee that PVAAS data is provided to school districts to look at the growth students are making. Dr. Bompadre will have additional information to share with the committee once the supervisors have had the opportunity to see what patterns are forming and meet with principals.

5.04 Countywide PSSA Comparisons

Dr. Horowitz shared with the committee and audience a comparison with 14 other districts in the county. The comparison shows not only performance, but disaggregated sub-groups (e.g., ethnicities, IEP and ELL students, economically disadvantaged students that qualify for Title I services).

At Marple Newtown almost all of our elementary schools met AYP outright. Worrall Elementary has a satellite program of Aspergers Support. Paxon Hollow made AYP. What Dr. Horowitz is most proud of is the fact that only 5 of 15 high schools made AYP. Marple Newtown High School made AYP. It is reflective of how we address our special needs and ELL students.

Dr. Horowitz would like to congratulate the special education teachers and administrators for their hard work.

5.05 Data Review Plan (Pennsylvania Value Added Assessment Systems)

Dr. Bompadre updated the committee regarding plans to review data after attending a DCIU Workshop.

5.06 ACT and SAT Results – An Historical Analysis

Dr. Bompadre presented an analysis at the high school level for ACT and SAT. Both of these tests are standardized tests that many colleges will use to make a decision regarding admission. ACT is a curriculum-based test. Questions are directly related to what students have learned in high school English, Mathematics, and Science courses. The ACT only counts correct answers. The more correct answers, the higher the score. The SAT is offered through the College Board, but deducts points for incorrect answers from the total score. No points are deducted if an answer is left blank, however, as with the ACT, the more correct answers, the higher the score. The SAT has a required writing section, the ACT writing section is optional.

Dr. Horowitz said that this year, Dr. Bompadre will work with Mr. McFall and the counselors to take a look at the kinds of students who take the ACT test as opposed to the SAT test. Dr. Horowitz noted that Marple Newtown offers an SAT Prep course (which was well-enrolled). The question arose as to whether Marple Newtown should offer an ACT course, as well.

Dr. Horowitz shared with the committee that 79.2% of last year's seniors pursued post-secondary education to some degree. Many went to Delaware County Community College. Dr. Horowitz said that could be due to economic issues. They do not require that a student take the SAT's.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.