

Olean City School District
Operations Committee Meeting
410 West Sullivan Street
Tuesday, March 29, 2016
12:00 pm

Present: Paul Hessney Ira Katzenstein
Frank Steffen, Jr. Mia O'Brien
Kathy Elser Jen Mahar
Jen Kless Colleen Taggerty
Vicki Zaleski-Irizarry

Guest: Nick Patrone

1. Community Schools

Paul Hessney noted that he attended a National Education Association conference in Los Angeles, CA in October. The special session for school board members that he attended discussed "Community Schools An Alternate to Charter Schools." Information that Paul obtained at the conference was scanned and emailed to committee members. Paul requested that an Operation Committee meeting be scheduled to discuss the District's Community Schools program. What is the OCSD currently doing? What more could we do? How can we take what we currently have and enhance it? How can the additional funding coming our way be used?

Nick Patrone presented/discussed the following Community Schools information.

Present Program:

- Adult Education and the various offerings/classes held in Salamanca, Olean, and the Catt. Co. building; the number of students that participated; number of staff that provide services
- Fredonia Liberty Partnership services – the number of OIMS/OH students' serviced (academic, social, and emotional support); number of staff that provide services;
- Youth Opportunity/Disconnect Youth – juvenile justice input; number of students serviced; number of staff that provide services
- AmeriCorps – number of staff that provide support to all programs
- STAR Program – various sources of funding; number of youth participants; the number of staff involved in the program

Nick also discussed the grants applied for/waiting approval:

- Extended School Day
- JCC Math/English Courses

Grants applied for in past – not awarded to our Community School:

- NYS Community Schools Grant – applied for in 2013 (application cycle is every 5 years)
- Federal Grant – applied for in 2010 – only 13 grants were awarded

What the District is doing as a whole:

- IRLA/Independent Reading – reading program involves parent participation
- FACES
- Extended school Day – partnership with YMCA
- PEP Grant – before and after school physical/wellness activities for students; healthy cooking classes – families and staff
- Health Schools NY – support and promote healthful eating for students and families
- Catt Co Probation officer has an office at the High School

- The District contracts with outside agencies – OMG (school physician), OGH (OT/PT services), BOCES, etc.
- Gundlah Dental Clinic – on-site services (preventive, referrals, health education, etc.)
- Attendance officers – one has office at OIMS and one has an office at EV
- Directions of Independent Living – works with families and students with disabilities
- Partnership with Head Start
- Reality Check Program – has an office at the High School
- Paul Wenke – retired Guidance Counselor works with families
- The District has partnerships with CUTCO, Dresser-Rand, Five Star Bank, etc.

Paul Hessney recommended:

- Hire social worker and a mental health counselor – 12 month, full-time, available to parents/students after the school/work day
 - On-site doctor and dentist
 - Our door should be open any time and at all times to our community
 - Expand our resources
 - Medicaid reimbursements
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- Nick noted that in order to expand what the District and Community Schools are currently doing, we would have to give up something
 - Colleen noted that what the District and Community Schools are currently doing is what we are able to sustain – if we hire a social worker, mental health counselor, doctor, dentist, etc. and the funding goes away it creates a funding gap.
 - When Reading First and Early Reading First funding was awarded, the new programs were implemented, several new staff members were hired and their salaries paid by the grants – once the funding goes away, the District has to absorb the salaries under the General Fund or lay off staff. Unemployment benefits become an expense to the District because the grant funding no longer exists – it is important to look at future costs/legacy costs when applying for/accepting grant funds
 - Additional classroom/office space is always a concern

Paul Hessney's recommendation based on discussions:

- Determine where the District stands financially after the May 17th budget vote
- Advisory Board – possibility of recreating
- Discuss Community Schools at the June 7th Operations Committee meeting

Other:

Paul Hessney recommended that letters to send to all students/staff recognized by the BOE under the Commendations section of the agenda

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Next meeting: April 19, 2016