

**Salamanca City Central School District
Strategic Planning Committee Minutes**

November 9, 2011, 8:00-10:00 a.m., High School LGI

Present:

Robert Breidenstein, Robert Crandall, Barb Sande, Heather Rozler, Mary Elizabeth Koch, Brooke Canale, Marcy Brown, Kristie Mendell, Lisa Gunning, Mary Plonka, Walt Zeznick, Susan Andrews, Tammy Dry, Brent Martin, Susan Zaprowski, Sharon Turano, Austin Hill

Absent:

Karen Watt, Jill Magara, Dominik Rettberg, Allissa Williams

Opening & Welcome

Superintendent Breidenstein addressed the committee, emphasizing the importance of the Strategic Plan to guide the district and this committee to report on progress and carry the message back to their peer groups. Mr. Breidenstein acted as Facilitator of the meeting and Susan Andrews acted as secretary.

Review of the Strategic Plan goal by goal

1. Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

- 1-1. The district faculty meeting is evolving into a less managerial and more instructional model of staff conversations on common core standards, assessments, etc. Teachers remain concerned because they don't know what assessments are going to look like.
- 1-2. Student transitions between grade levels are an issue. 5th graders come over to the middle school scared. Suggest sending 5th graders to MS on their half days at the end of the school year to get their orientation and put their minds at ease over the summer. A number of 9th graders do poorly – esp. boys – in the first quarter and this is difficult to recover from as the year progresses. Suggestions: an 8 & 9 grade teacher meeting earlier in the spring to identify students at risk; shadow days; guidance take a more active role to plan activities and interventions; do freshman orientation during the first week of school with all the students while they are in school instead of having them come on their own time before school starts; a possible ten week module to help struggling freshmen with the transition to greater personal responsibility and more homework; identify the students at greatest risk and link them with mentors.
- 1-3. Mary Elizabeth Koch reported on various trainings: technology training on ipads and smartboards; caboces literacy integration as part of common core standards with an emphasis on writing. Tammy Dry reported on one-on-one Castle Learning training.
- 1-4. Superintendent Breidenstein reported how the new State requirements will mean that teachers must spend more time out of the classroom on training. The idea being that better trained makes for better instruction.
- 1-5. Integrating SNI Resources and Culture: Seneca Elementary – field trip planned to Seneca-Iroquois National Museum; Prospect Elementary – Angela Cogley working with K-2 students on basic Seneca words, culture and dancing, the kids love to dance; Middle School – Janine Bowen collaborating with other teachers to push SNI culture into other subject areas and is going to present Seneca Culture lessons at another district; Alt Ed students are taking Seneca as their foreign language requirement; HS has Seneca History class, Seneca language class and UNPFII club; SNI programs for students at SNI facilities include the Indigenous Youth Summit, College Night and a new “Boys to Men” mentor program. Superintendent Breidenstein asked that each building identify rooms to label –

eg. "Gymnasium," "Library," "Office" – and then create English and Seneca labels to mount on the walls and further encourage language integration into daily use.

2. Character Development, School Climate and Safety

- 2-1. Chronic absenteeism remains an issue. Teachers use their prep periods to catch up students on missed material. Ideally a program at the fourth grade level to intervene would be good, but we can't help them if they don't come to school. New emergency communication system, Global-Connect, can be used to contact parents regarding tardy or absent students.
- 2-2. Facebook after hours spills over into school the next day. Suggest adding the Internet Safety message to Parent-Athlete Meetings to help parents understand the issues so they can better guide their children. Tammy Dry will do an internet safety column for the Pow Wow newsletter to continue to educate parents. Teen suicide information spreads rapidly through social media to the students and has a powerful affect on them. Suggest possible PSAs for Warrior Vision students would be suicide prevention or anti-bullying on Facebook. SNI's Heather Rozler asked Tammy Dry to set up a brown bag lunch presentation at SNI to teach parents about social media and internet safety and to forward the Pow Wow internet safety articles to SNI for their newsletter. Superintendent Breidenstein explained that before the district can have an official Facebook page, the district must develop a complete policy addressing the issues involved. Any Salamanca School Facebook pages out there now were created by private individuals and are not run by the district.
- 2-3. Superintendent Breidenstein explained the district is working on safety plans and implementing Global-Connect for contacting staff and community. However, he said, "We are more likely to face an issue based on social media rather than a flood or a tornado. Cyber-fights last longer and leave little physical evidence. "

3. Technology

- 3.1 Superintendent Breidenstein pointed out that the Five Year Plan is being implemented and as a goal for the Strategic Plan, Technology is a long-term goal that must be sustained. The infusion of technology into the new common core standards will elevate instructional results.
- 3.2 Superintendent Breidenstein went on to explain, the district has 1 million dollars unused from the capital campaign. This cannot be used for anything other than capital improvements, so he is working with architects on making the three Salamanca campuses – Prospect, Seneca and HS-MS – into wireless campuses so that the district has the infrastructure to embrace emerging technologies. The timeline on this process: architects are working on it to develop proposals to send to the BOE and then open workshops will be scheduled for public input.
- 3.3 These capital improvements to technology would then allow the development of video-conferencing between buildings. The proposed plan would be to work toward having mobile technology to share by grade level instead of immovable labs. Superintendent Breidenstein said, "We need to get this stuff in the teachers' hands so they can be of assistance to kids."

4. Collaborative Relationships and Communication

- 4-1. Communication is the tool to get the word out on the Strategic Plan and other district news, such as the school budget development for next year. Superintendent

Breidenstein has a blog and a column in the Pow Wow newsletter that he updates with issues facing the district. He is willing to meet with community members at any time and would like staff meetings to be places of information so they can be ambassadors to the public. He noted that Salamanca Press has been providing solid coverage on the district's events and issues. Brooke Canale noted that she has seen more people at sporting events this year than before and credits website and newsletter coverage. Susan Andrews noted that with the website software upgrade this year, training might make teachers more comfortable with using this technology, but getting time for training and maintaining teacher web pages is difficult to arrange. Local cable Channel 13 has not been updated since Levi Sponeybarger left. Michelle Hill as the media teacher posts student videos but the other general information needs to be assigned and training established so this venue can be maintained again.

5. **For the Good of the Order** – BOE President Robert Crandall said that out of respect for others, the meeting should start on time and the direction of the conversation is good but that no side conversations should be allowed. Superintendent Breidenstein summarized by saying that the Strategic Plan is very powerful and important work and if we continue to push on, we will be in a very different place, a year from now.

6. **Upcoming Meeting Schedule**

January 11, 2012

February 8, 2012

March 14, 2012

May 9, 2012

June 6, 2012

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Andrews, Public Information Specialist