



LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
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James D. Leary
 Vice-Chairman

Lowell School Committee
Joint Subcommittees

David J. Conway
Jacqueline A. Doherty

on
Finance & Curriculum
Central Administration Offices

Alison Laraba
John J. Leahy
Connie A. Martin

Room 116
November 30, 2010
7:00 P.M.

Subcommittee member James Leary called the meeting of the Subcommittees on Finance and Curriculum to order at 7:10 p.m.

<u>Finance Subcommittee Members Present:</u>	<u>Also Present:</u>
Jim Leary, Chair Jackie Doherty John Leahy	<u>Central Office:</u>
<u>Curriculum Subcommittee Members Present:</u>	Dr. Chris Scott, Superintendent
Connie Martin, Chair	Jean Franco, Deputy Superintendent
<u>Other Subcommittee Members Present:</u>	Jay Lang, Assistant Superintendent
Alison Laraba	Claire Abrams, Coordinator K-12 Mathematics
	<u>Others:</u>
	Kelly A. King, Ed.D., preschool teacher/Bartlett Community
	Partnership School
	Sheila Skippington, Education Development Center, Incorporated

The order of the agenda for this subcommittee meeting was changed and included the following topics:

1. Research Proposal (Curriculum Subcommittee)
 - Barbara J. Helms, Ph.D.
2. Grants and Redesign Grants
Turnaround Plan
3. Research Proposal (Curriculum Subcommittee)
 - Kelly A. King, Ed.D.

Barbara J. Helms, Ph.D. Research Proposal

Barbara J. Helms, Ph.D. Senior Research Associate/Principal Investigator of Education Development Center, Incorporated research proposal was presented by her colleague Sheila Skippington as Dr. Helms was out of town.

The research proposal involves studying the transition of students from Preschool to Kindergarten. The focus will be on taking a closer look at both Preschool and Kindergarten schedules by identifying time on activities that could perhaps be done at an earlier level of Preschool to better prepare the students for Kindergarten.

Teachers will be brought together to stimulate a discussion and plan for changes that may be beneficial to students. Information will be brought back to the Subcommittee at the conclusion of the study.

MOTION: *by Mr. Martin, seconded by Ms. Doherty:* to recommend to the Committee as a whole: **Authorize participation in Dr. Barbara J. Helms' research project.** 3-0 Accept.

Grants and Redesign Grants **Turnaround Plan**

Dr. Scott began this discussion of the Grants and Redesign Grants and what has been approved by the state and what grants still need to be approved. The Turnaround Plan involved the work of the Stakeholders Group, Redesign Team, and the District Implementation Team. Mr. DiCarlo, Principal of the Murkland School, discussed the work that has been done up to this point. Key points that were discussed focused on:

- The professional development teachers have been receiving by consultants from Teachers for Teachers in Literacy.
- The plan as it stands now is the foundation of the work that will continue over the next three years
- The changing the culture of the Murkland School to one of “looking in the mirror instead of out the window”

Mr. DiCarlo is pleased with the work up to this point and stated that the data shows results at this point.

Redesign Grant

The Redesign Grant is in the process of being written and is due to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education by January 14, 2011. Dr. Scott discussed some concerns as to how the district can be sure that we are competitive as we move forward with the grant proposal. Dr. Scott is awaiting word from the DESE as to what other districts are offering in their proposals. This will provide Lowell with valuable information as to the planning elements that will strengthen the competitiveness of the grant proposal. This year the Turnaround Plan triggered an award of \$132,000 for planning. The next three years the district will receive \$500,000 to continue the work laid out in the Turnaround Plan if successful in obtaining the Redesign Grant.

A discussion ensued around the professional development offered by Teachers for Teachers and the continuation of services at the Murkland and Morey Schools including:

- The rate of payment to the consultants for forty-five days of work
- The possibility of someone in the district who is fulltime who could perform this work
- The equitability of services to all schools or just these two schools
- The satisfaction of the staff with the consultants

Dr. Scott discussed the impact of the work at the Morey School and how improvements were made in two years. She added that he Murkland School is a Level 4 school and that we should try to do the same work there with the consultants. Mr. DiCarlo stated that his teachers feel very comfortable with the consultants and are working hard to make improvements.

Dr. Scott asked the committee if the work of the Teachers for Teachers Consultants will be allowed to continue at the Murkland School as they are written in the Turnaround Plan and will need to be written into the Resign Grant, as recommended by the Murkland School Redesign Team.

Commendation Grant

The Lincoln, Shaughnessy, Wang and Morey Schools received an award of \$10,000 for the successful practices in literacy. Funding is available for other schools in the district to study these practices at PLC's, and Data Summits as they plan effective strategies for implementing content literacy in all areas of instruction.

MOTION: *by Ms. Martin, seconded by Mr. Leary:* to recommend to the committee as a whole: **Authorization to take the report under advisement and forward the motion to the full committee for approval.** 3-0 Accept.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: *by Mr. Leary, seconded by Ms. Doherty:* to recommend to the committee as a whole: **Authorization to support the Teachers for Teachers contract for this year.** 2-Accept; 1-Present.

Kelly A. King, Ed.D. Research Proposal

Dr. King, preschool teacher at the Bartlett Community Partnership School, presented her research proposal and explained that she will conduct this research project in her classroom during the 2010-2011 school year in collaboration with Dr. MinJeong Kim of the University of Massachusetts Lowell, Graduate School of Education.

The research study will involve the following:

- critical literacy in a preschool classroom
- urban environment
- standards based curricula
- videotaping blocks/analyzing instruction
- daily journals
- IRB video process approval
- publish research as a book

MOTION: *by Mr. Leary, seconded by Ms. Doherty:* to recommend to the Committee as a whole: **Authorize participation in Dr. Kelly A. King's research project.** 3-0 Accept.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean M. Franco, Deputy Superintendent for
Dr. Chris A. Scott, Superintendent and
Secretary, Lowell School Committee

Attachments