

The Professional Committee



ProCom is a joint committee of
The Millard Public Schools and
The Millard Education Association



The ProCom meeting convened at 1:30 p.m., December 4, 2007, at the ESU #3.

Administrators Present: Keith Lutz,, Mark Feldhausen, Kirby Eltiste, Jim Sutfin, Chad Meisgeier, Kevin Chick, Brian Begley, Jeff Alfrey, Nancy Johnston, Angelo Passarelli, Craig Whaley, and Ken Fossen

MEA Present: Tony Levy, Molly Erickson, Erin Shirmang-Ward, Charlie Gould, Sherry Havranek, Reynee Shanahan, Jim Mercer, and Libby Engelbart

There were several concerns expressed in regards to the elementary writing curriculum not going in the same direction as the writing assessment. The questions included there is the perception that with three different prompts it is a disadvantage to some, if it is a common assessment how can that be with the three different prompts, using the four square writing tool doesn't meet the needs of 5th graders, why the district went to a single rater, and how cut scores are established.

Carol Newton provided information from the curriculum guide that confirmed the alignment of the curriculum with the AWA assessment. Carol indicated that the five paragraph requirement that is perceived by some teachers is not a requirement in the curriculum. Jon explained the process of item development and standard setting indicating that both are done using teacher judgment and recommendations. All assessments meet rigorous validity and reliability standards and cut scores are derived using teacher input.

Dr. Lutz encouraged administrators to get into buildings to explain programs where there seems to be a lot of questions. He wants teachers to know who they can go to with questions.

The question was asked if CPR could become a choice for teachers for staff development. An explanation was given that it could be extremely costly if the class was open to all staff members. At least 3 people in each building are trained in CPR, in addition to the PE Teachers, Coaches, Activity Sponsors, Nurses, and Health Para's. CPR Training is included with the AED Training, so those staff members receive AED Certification as well.

Tony asked the question if a teacher can go to an individual board member on a concern, and what can happen to them if they do.

Dr. Lutz explained in board policy there are procedures for teachers to follow, as there are for board members when a concern comes to them from teachers, students, or community members. One board member can not speak for the Board of Education. Board members are policy makers. If teachers do not follow the procedures set in policy it could be considered insubordination. There is a line of responsibility within the board's policies and rules too.

The last question was if a new hire with no previous experience could be earning more than someone who has been in the district 2-3 years. Because there was a change in the system in 2004 it could happen, but there are very few cases. There are many opportunities for staff members to take various classes whether it is for college credit, or staff development classes to increase annual income. Some opt not to do this for one reason or another.

The next meeting date for PROCOM will be on Tuesday, March 4, 2008 at 1:30 p.m.