

The Professional Committee



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



The ProCom meeting was held at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 4, 2010 at ESU #3.

Members present:

DISTRICT: Keith Lutz, Mark Feldhausen, Angelo Passarelli, Jon Lopez, Jim Sutfin, Chad Meisgeier, Brian Begley, John Southworth, Andy DeFreece

MEA: Molly Erickson, Mike Wiesen, Katie Tessin, Katie McGinness, Lloyd Hoshaw, Erin Shirmang-Ward, Paul Schulte, Amy Thalcken

I. Elementary Hours

This could affect all 3 levels because of busing and rising contact times of other districts. It may be necessary to increase elementary hours to compare to Learning Community averages. Right now Millard has 1080 hours and the average Learning Community hours are 1126. The Millard School Board will be discussing options on how to increase contact time with students. Two reasons for increasing instructional time would be growing expectations and state aid.

II. LCCC/Legislative Update

All in-district transfers were completed by February 15. Open enrollment continues until March 15. Depending on availability of space, a lottery will then be held to determine who can transfer into the district. The district has two weeks to notify families and families have 3 weeks to let the district know if they are planning to attend. By May 15 we should know how many students have transferred. The priorities of the lottery are: siblings, socio-economic and then everyone else, in that order.

LB 1006, the Kindergarten Bill – If this passes the cut-off date for attending Kindergarten each year would change to July 31. This would begin with the 2012-2013 school year. Right now it looks like this will pass. This would impact Millard's funding by \$1.4 million because they could lose over 200 students. These students could still attend preschool but the funding would be much lower.

III. Budget Issues

The legislature met last fall in special session. There was a 2½% cut. Millard is a growing school district so they expect to break even on funding. Information will be released soon. Millard and other districts with high needs/low income should do fairly well.

The district is already locked into a negotiated agreement with the teachers and nurses, which will cost \$8 million. They will either have to take reserves down or make some cuts. The “rule of thumb” is to keep 2 months of operating capital on hand. We will continue to update as we approach the cliff year, the year of no federal stimulus money in 2011-2012.

IV. Engagement

The staff engagement data will be put together in a school improvement plan. Also collected were parent engagement and student engagement data. The plans for these reports are due in June. It was determined out of teacher data: 50% are engaged (this is their professional calling); 43% are not engaged (teaching is just a job); and 7% are disengaged (they just show up). High scores (65-69th percentile): I understand the purpose of the organization, I get to do what I do best every day, and I know what is expected of me. Low scores (40-50th percentile): I have a best friend at work, I am recognized for what I do, and my opinion counts. Millard's participation level was extremely high. As a district, building to building, we are very much alike.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m. The next ProCom meeting is scheduled for May 18th.