Midland Public Schools

Curriculum and Special Services (CaSS) Study Committee Minutes

Monday, January 16, 2012, 1:00 p.m.

Members Present: John Kaminski (chair), Lynn Baker, Carl Ellinger, Kathy Ellison, Yvonne Gorton and Gary Verlinde

Meeting Location: Community Center, Post-Secondary Classroom

Post-Secondary Class / Program Visit

The Curriculum and Special Services Study Committee visited the Post-Secondary Program at the Midland Community Center. These special needs students, age 18–26, shared their experiences at the various work sites in the communities and discussed their tasks and the skills required to successfully complete those tasks. Teacher Lori Hedrick explained the curriculum of the program and the diversity of students’ needs.

Educational Programming for Post-Secondary Students K-12

After the classroom visit, Bob Paris, Curriculum Specialist for Special Services, and Carla Koch, Supervisor of the Post-Secondary Program, sketched out the purpose of the program and how it complements other Midland Public Schools and Midland County ESA programs. They also delineated all such low incidence special services programs K–12.

Change 9-Week Grading Period

Gary Verlinde and Kathy Ellison then discussed the districts’ study of moving to a standard 9-week grading period at all grade levels. The standardization would be easier for parents to track and with the success of the web-based Home Access Center parents can already get a daily picture of their students’ academic progress. Administration is going to continue discussions with teachers in February.

Central Middle School

Superintendent Ellinger shared some information on ramifications of closing Central and the various ways of transitioning the students. He discussed schools of choice, districting, and staffing implications as well as master schedule considerations.

Next CaSS meeting: February 27, 2012