

DVR Business Committee Minutes

November 15, 2019

East Leyden High School, Little Theater

12:45 – 2:30 pm

I. Introductions

Tony Pecucci (Leyden), Lauren Martire (Leyden), Luca Ciccolini (Ridgewood), Jim Melich (Elmwood Park), Matt Prebble (OPRF), Nancy Bardo (OPRF), Patty Sarkady (Riverside Brookfield), Gretchen Reyes (Triton College)

II. School College Alliance Workshop Post Discussion

Members who attended the conference said it was beneficial to their professional development. Information cited included:

- *College and Career Pathway Presentation - Discussion ensued on what schools are currently implementing this type of strategy. Ridgewood stated this is helpful in putting students into career pathways and selecting electives. Other schools are in conversations about implementation.*
- *Breakout Sessions - IncubatorEDU (Accelerator) and Gamification presentations were cited as beneficial to most schools.*

III. [IBEA Conference \(11/6 - 11/8\)](#)

Two members attended the conference. There were several presentations at the conference, but members who attended shared two areas of interest for the group:

- *Cybersecurity/Data Protection - There was a presentation on protecting your data. This led to a larger group discussion of what schools are doing in the areas of Cybersecurity. Leyden will be moving towards Cybersecurity curriculum in the next school year and Ridgewood is looking at Cybersecurity through the lens of PLTW.*
- *Essential Skills - A solid conversation was held regarding where essential skills (soft skills) are being taught in each school. A presentation at IBEA discussed implementing a campaign department wide in all Business classes. Members discussed and traded ideas on what they are doing in each school to address this issue.*

IV. [Dual Credit Possibilities at Triton](#)/Discussion of Dual Credit

Gretchen Reyes handed out some information regarding the current participation from all schools in Dual Credit at Triton. While members were aware of their current efforts, there were many questions asked about how the current set of courses at each school might qualify. Discussions included:

- *Current schools who are executing dual credit for IncubatorEDU and the process involved*
- *Current schools who are executing dual credit for Mobile Makers and the process involved*
- *Schools who are using certifications as a means to garner dual credit*
- *Qualifications of teachers and how that applies to various business topics (Entrepreneurship, Accounting, etc.)*
- *Possible professional development for DVR Teachers (possibly a cohort) to allow more teachers to be qualified*

It was agreed that all schools will look for more opportunities to excel in this area.

V. [2019 Illinois Curriculum Questionnaire: Career and Technical Education](#)

Questionnaire was discussed. Each member will ensure their department has an opportunity to complete.

VI. Article - [Why is CTE So Important?](#)

Article was discussed. It will be distributed as necessary to all school departments.

VII. Business Education Certification Efforts

A discussion was held to determine if there are opportunities we are missing to help our students in Business certification (not technical certifications). Leyden has been working to get students certified in QuickBooks the past two years. OPRF has been working with a Certiport curriculum for Entrepreneurship, and has had some success. Schools discussed the merit of certifications for business type functions and if employers saw any merit in hiring potential employees. Members felt that business type certifications would be beneficial if we were positive they were held in high regard post-high school.

VIII. Employability Skills/Essential Skills Discussion

Members read the report and revisited what efforts are occurring for employability skills. Most agreed that much of our efforts to help students academically in business could possibly go unnoticed if students do not have the essential skills necessary. Again, members shared ideas that can be implemented in any school. One example was a Professional Dress Day held at Leyden, where students dressed professionally and took a professional photo to use for online profiles. Other ideas were shared.

IX. Leyden Business Advisory Board (December)/Advisory Board

Discussion

A discussion was held to determine if any schools have advisory boards. Only one school currently is implementing an advisory board in both Business and Technology to guide their curriculum. The reason for this effort is to ensure that curriculum is relevant. Several members saw the benefit of this effort and some will attempt to get it started within their schools.

X. FBLA and/or DECA Integration

A round table discussion was held to discuss what each school is doing with FBLA and DECA within their departments. Leyden was looking for ideas to integrate the competitions within their coursework in a way that students would still enjoy the curriculum. Ridgewood has both FBLA and DECA at their school - yet they attract two different audiences of students. All members reported out on the number of students, activities involved in and pros/cons of each organization. All members received some new ideas on how better to work with our student professional organizations.

XI. Discussion of Current Efforts/Future in Each Department

- *A good discussion involving Independent Study (how to use it, how each member school implements, pros/cons, etc.). Each school handles differently, but most discussed how it would be a benefit to a student who is pursuing the next level of a topic.*
- *Member schools discussed their current efforts and received feedback from other schools on how best to implement different programs (Incubator, Mobile Makers, etc).*

XII. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.