

Parsippany-Troy Hills Township Schools

Board of Education Meeting Questions and Answers

December 5, 2013

Question:

What percent of PHS 11th graders were classified as special education for the 2012-13 academic year?

- **18% (48 out of 267 students)**

Similarly, what percent of PHHS 11th graders were classified as special education for the 2012-13 academic year?

- **14.5% (42 out of 290 students)**

Q2: For comparison purposes, what percent of all 11th graders enrolled in district factor (GH) schools throughout the state were classified as special education for the 2012-13 academic year?

- **14.7% (2,631 out of 17,859 students)**

Q3: Of the total number of 2012-13 11th graders in the Parsippany district who were classified as special education, what is the percent breakdown between males and females?

- **male = 64.4% (58 out of 90 students)**
- **female = 35.6% (32 out of 90 students)**

With reviewing the middle school RW program are we looking at adding minutes to the day or just reallocating the current day?

- **As part of the explanation to increase instruction time, rotate the classes, and reduce the number of lunch periods all subjects are under view. Alternate schedules at our secondary buildings is what is being reviewed by a steering committee of parents, teachers, and administrators.**

A review of the LA and RW programs appears to show different core content standards (with a slight overlap) between the two programs. Can you confirm the percentage of redundancy or lack there of?

- **The overlap is not slight. 59% of the r/w standards are covered in la.**

**The interim Superintendent indicated concerns of political consequences for educational decisions that may be made. I would like to have a better understanding about the political consequences that are feared and from who?

- **We are a public school governed by an elected Board of Education. Thus, political consequences are inherently tied to educational and financial decisions.**

Can you tell me what the last two problems with the BMS floor were and how it differs from the current issue?

- **In 2011 the gym flooded from a bad rainstorm. The storm was so intensive the storm drain system could not handle the amount of rain that fell and the rain came in right under the door. Even with the quick clean up the water penetrated the floor quickly and it buckled. The current problem is that the ground water leached up through the concrete under the floor.**

It appears there is a large increase in LA proficiency scores in middle school. How much do we attribute that to the RW program? What obstacles might we face with falling scores if we eliminate the RW program?

- **We can measure the 2012 to 2013 growth from 5th to 6th, 6th to 7th, and 7th to 8th. The presentation highlighted growth in language arts proficiency in all of those general education cohorts from 2012 to 2013. That said, the state and dfg had very comparable increases in every area as well, so that attributing our own growth to any one particular intervention would be faulty. In fact, although our scores were higher, our *growth percentage* from 7th to 8th grade was less than both the state and dfg's growth percentages.**

When a new teacher is assigned to a class, how are the parents notified?

- **Principal notifies the parents of the change and the practice will be reinforced.**