

Communities Helping Communities

Shared Services Committee

Dear Parents and Community Members,

For nearly a year, Pavilion and York Central School Board of Education sub-committees have been meeting on a regular basis. The focus of these meetings has been the simple yet important goal of maximizing student opportunities in both districts. Faced with unprecedented and inequitable state aid cuts since the 2008-2009 budget year, with little to no relief in sight, both Boards of Education felt it important to form a partnership and work on ways to help each other. We are very proud to say the partnership and the working relationship has been extremely positive.

What have we learned? We have learned that we both have outstanding school systems that are defined by a strong commitment to provide the best possible education to our students. We have learned that we each offer unique academic and extracurricular programs that provide numerous opportunities for sharing. Most importantly we have learned that there are many ways we can help one another now and in the future.

As with any new venture we have exercised a degree caution, and have started small with the goal of expanding sharing opportunities in the 2014-2015 school year. The committee has spent a great deal of time looking at academic offerings. In addition, the high school principals from both districts have committed time and energy determining academic alignment and potential areas for sharing. A newly set goal will be to share two Advanced Placement (AP) courses during the 2014-2015 school year. The courses selected are unique to each district and will provide more choice to students in Pavilion and York. A growing list of crucial AP courses will provide our students with the additional academic challenge and rigor that more and more colleges expect. These efforts, which we will look to expand upon in each successive year, will make students in both districts significantly better prepared when applying to college. This is especially true when our students apply to highly competitive programs.

In the area of athletics, we currently share a combined varsity wrestling team. Both districts were experiencing very low numbers of athletes and both wrestling programs were in jeopardy. Our committee discussions this past fall led to the current combined team. The combined program has been a success and wrestlers from both schools have formed a strong team bond and truly compete as one unified team. Without these efforts both schools will most certainly lose athletic offerings in the coming years. Thanks to our district athletic directors and coaches for their efforts in making this a success. This January the committee will explore other athletic team combinations for the upcoming 2014 fall season.

To learn more, minutes from our meetings are posted on each district website:

http://www.pavilioncsd.org/board_education.cfm?subpage=1725196

<http://www.yorkcsd.org/district.cfm?subpage=1729530>

Future Sharing Opportunities

Academic Programming:

2014-2015 school year: the following have been identified as shared Advanced Placement courses:

- AP World - York Central School Instructor
- AP English Literature and Composition - Pavilion Central School Instructor

Pavilion and York will consider offering additional courses for the 2015-2016 school year:

- Military History (ACE Course) - Pavilion Central School Instructor
- AP Spanish - Instructor to be determined
- AP Psychology - Instructor to be determined

Please note:

Final decisions regarding course offerings are dependent upon a number of factors that may not be clearly defined until the master schedule in each school is built. Factors may include staff availability, student schedule issues, and student interest level for specific courses.

Other areas for consideration: Elementary level sharing opportunities, test scoring, staff development, curriculum projects, equipment, etc.

2014-2015 Athletics:

Review of fall sports: Athlete numbers and program needs. Possible new areas: Soccer, Football, Golf, Tennis, and Swimming.

Reassess wrestling situation early fall 2014 and make a decision early October to continue partnership. The committee will also look into the possibility of sharing other extracurricular offerings outside of athletics.

Please note:

Combined sports teams are decided on a needs basis and require respective Board of Education supporting resolutions and Section Five Athletic Association review and approval on an annual basis.

We value your input throughout this process. We are planning to send a future survey to gather more input from district residents. If you have ideas, questions, or concerns, feel free to contact one of the members of the committee listed below. Thank you.

Shared Services Committee

Marirose Ethington- PCS Board Member

Steve Beardsley- YCS Board Member

Ken Ellison- PCS Superintendent

Joe Graves- YCS Board President

Jeff Finch- PCS Board Member

Dan Murray- YCS Superintendent

Sarah Noble-Moag- PCS Board President

Dave Sperino- YCS Board Member