

Poland Regional High School

School Board Report

March 2022

Staff Updates

We have been able to fill the Student Services Aide position left vacant earlier in the year with the resignation of Rikki Lukeski. Rhonda Lausier, who has been working in our building supporting an individual student while employed by an outside agency, has stepped in to assist us with a range of student supervision tasks that has been a great help. Her primary areas of focus will be to make sure students are in class consistently and work with students who are removed from class for disciplinary reasons.

Teaching and Learning

Our Wednesday PD time has allowed us to build in more regular BARR/RTI meetings. The 9/10 teams meet to make plans for their students. They typically meet during their common prep time during the day, but allowing more after-school time provides them with a break during our very busy days. The 11/12 teachers are now able to meet at least twice a month to monitor the progress of our juniors and seniors and make sure that we don't let any of them fall through the cracks.

We continue to struggle with behavior issues with our 9th and 10th grade students. Without questions, they have been most impacted by the altered school calendar and schedule of the past two years. In the first semester, 40 students were suspended. The next two highest years were 17-18 and 18-19 with 36 suspended students for the entire school year. Of those students suspended, 26 were in 9th or 10th grade and 8 were in our alternative program. Teachers are working incredibly hard to keep students in class and avoid sending behavior issues to the office; but, more so than ever, they are having to send students down to the office to be able to conduct class. To try to address these problems, we are taking the following actions (in addition to all of our regular strategies): trying to add a social worker out of ESSER funds for next year to help us address these issues; hiring Rhonda Lausier to our staff will help us to keep students in class and reduce an uptick in class skipping; using our electronic pass system, E-hallpass, to help us monitor student movement throughout the building and prevent particular students from being out of class at the same time.

We have installed vape detectors in the student bathrooms and are just now getting them fully functioning. Our hope is that they will act as a deterrent to our continued vaping problem. We have seen a decrease in vaping since our school-wide education program in December, so we are hopeful that the detectors can help us eliminate this activity that is damaging for our students' health and also one of the issues that is resulting in student suspensions.

Facilities & Safety

Thanks to Tony and his crew for dealing with the crazy February weather that made clearing the property of ice super challenging!

Events/Activities

- Student led conferences are scheduled for the week of March 14th-17th.
- Winter Carnival will be on March 25th.
- The One Act Play competition is March 25th-26th.
- Pitchers and catchers begin practice on March 21st. All spring sports (baseball, softball, track, lacrosse) begin full practices on March 28th.