

SENATE BILL 1083

AGRICULTURAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

M I N U T E S

Date: April 30, 1984

Place: Elk Grove District Office Board Room, Elk Grove

Members Present: Kay Albiani
Jack Chappell
Robert Dempel
James T. Elings
Mark Linder
Joe Nunez
Steve Olson
Larry Rathbun
Tracy Schortman
Laura Tower

Members Absent: David Austin
Jan Eberly
Ted Hirayama
Joe Martinez

Others Present: Sandy Beck
Ken Harris
Bob Trigg
Don Wilson

Item #1. Called to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Steve Olson at 9:30 a.m. Kay Albiani explained the procedures and what we would be doing at the high school Agriculture Department. Fresh donuts and coffee were served thanks to Kay. The Committee then recessed to the high school's Agriculture Department.

Reconvened at High School Agriculture Department

Kay Albiani introduced the advisory committee to Mike Calicura, Head of the Ag Department of Elk Grove High School. Mike explained to the committee that their students were preparing for the local fair by having a chapter field day on their campus. Former students of the high school program were serving as the student leaders and working with the high school students on the finer points of fitting and showing of their S.O.E. project animals.

He explained that they had used the Model Program funds to purchase diesel repair tools, a computer with software, video equipment, a van for transporting students and other agriculture mechanics equipment. They had planned to spend \$8,000 for the livestock barn. However, because of the Field Act Standards, the cost had escalated to approximately \$43,000. This is a real problem according to Mike and he feels that this rule for livestock facilities, etc... should be changed. The recommendation was made that the advisory committee might want to address the issue of farm lab structures related to Field Act Standards.

The Elk Grove staff would like to expand their curriculum to include a meat laboratory.

Other problems facing the agriculture department have to do with the graduation requirements and what they are doing to the ag enrollment. Normally, there are 100 to 120 incoming freshmen each year to the Agriculture Science Program. This year 56 have signed up for Agriculture Science.

The addition of fine arts and physical science requirements are causing the problem. Freshmen students want to get the requirements out of the way early.

Questions from the Advisory Committee to Mike Calicura

Question Do you have a local advisory committee and what is its role?

Answer We have an advisory committee of seven (7) individuals who are former graduates of college and this high school's agriculture program. Representative of all related areas of agriculture. We have met twice so far--January and March. We plan to address the graduation requirements and other problems.

Question How many periods can a student take?

Answer Six plus a lunch period.

Question Has the school considered a 7th period?

Answer Kay Albiani indicated that the district will be discussing this in upcoming negotiations. Hopefully the results will be a 7th period and not lengthening the existing periods.

Question Does your agriculture plan include a "Flow Sheet"?

Answer Yes. It is on Page 4 of the handout.

Question If you start with 120 Freshmen as in the past, what would your enrollments be for sophomores, juniors and seniors?

Answer Approximately 70 sophomores, 55 juniors and 25-40 seniors.

Question If freshmen take fine arts in their freshman year, will they come into ag the sophomore year?

Answer We don't know. Generally when students start tracking they don't change. Recently we had an academic decathlon and our ag kids won. 73% of our graduates in ag go to higher education--to include 60% to four-year institutions and 13% to J.C.

Question What do you think of the standards?

Answer Class size standard has helped. Some bother me. The early identification of a goal and trying to get a SOE to match the goal is a problem.

Question Are there other standards that you have problems with?

Answer No. We are working our way through these.

Question Do you have an advisory and booster committee?

Answer Yes...both. The community has bought into the Elk Grove Agriculture Program. Through the booster, the community wanted to help on their own.

Mike introduced Tim Albiani who served as a guide. He gave the committee a tour of the facilities and explained where the Model Program funds were used.

The committee then walked over to the school land lab where Tim and other students explained what was taking place.

After a great bar-be-cue meal the committee traveled back to the school district office.

Item #2. Minutes

The committee reconvened in the Board Room at 1:15 p.m.

It was moved by Kay Albiani; Second by Jack Chappell that the minutes be approved as mailed. Passed.

Item #4. Inclusion of the Senate Bill 187 Standards in the California State Plan for Vocational Education

Don Wilson reviewed the current status of standards in the State Plan. He pointed out that there are NO specific standards in force for Agriculture in the State Plan. We do have some general standards with little enforcement. We need to have standards included in the State Plan. A timeline was handed out (Attachment #1)

He suggested that this committee go with the current 187 standards and that we can revise the State Plan at any time.

After much discussion, it was moved by Joe Nunez and second by Kay Albiani that "this committee recommends that the 15 standards (187 reports) be included in the State Plan for Vocational Education effective in 1985." The motion passed unanimously.

Item #3. Report on Visit to Green Acres School--Mark Linder and Larry Rathbun

Mark Linder provided the committee with slides along with his and Larry's observations and comments on project "Life-Lab" in Santa Cruz. This project is designed to teach science to elementary students by using agriculture as the vehicle. This project was originally funded through federal funds which are not now available. They are now seeking other sources of funding to expand to other schools.

Don Wilson provided clarification of this advisory committee's role related to the topic. "Original advisory committee said that the component for consumer outreach should be addressed." Don also pointed out that the Model Program at Watsonville includes planning dollars for local elementary school. He pointed out that the budget language would have to be amended in order to consider funding projects like "Life-Lab.

Mark pointed out that they are looking for \$129,000 possibly from the Incentive Grant funds. They want to set up 10 Model sites. If we want to provide endorsement, they are ready to listen.

Mark pointed out that agriculture industry would have problems with some parts of their printed curriculum materials. He posed the question, "Should we get involved and give some direction or let them go about it on their own?"

Larry Rathbun pointed out that there were two issues:

1. Teaching science through the medium of agriculture.
2. Production agriculture verses science or environmental issues.

He also pointed out two reasons he has a problem with our involvement:

1. Elementary science primary, agriculture secondary.
2. Budgetary problems...\$78,000 out of \$130,000 for administration.

Mark expressed concern on a third issue.

3. Some units of the text--needs Ag input.

The advisory committee expressed concern as well on the three issues.

Larry Rathbun indicated that the only science that is taught is the science at Green Acres. That is good, but it is not the Agriculture Consumer Education which is one of the priorities of this committee.

Bob Trigg, Superintendent of Elk Grove District, was asked how science was covered at the elementary schools. He said that there is a lack of consistency and one reason may be the lack of teacher experience. It is typically covered at the 7th grade. Teachers need inservice.

After extensive discussion it was moved by Joe Nunez, second by Kay Albani to inform the Life-Lab staff that, "Our committee has reviewed 'project life-lab' at length and has agreed that we continue observing this and other programs serving similar functions." The motion passed unanimously.

Item #5. Role of Vocational Education the Comprehensive High School

Held Over

Item #8. Review of the Senate Bill 187 Report Recommendations on Funding for Vocational Agricultural Teacher Inservice Preservice Preparation, and Curriculum Development

Don Wilson provided the committee with a report.

Preservice

The teacher preparation is funded at five teacher education institutions in part. At a level of \$130,000 from federal funding. This includes \$65,000 from the community college Chancellor's Office and \$65,000 from the State Department of Education.

Inservice

There is a \$60,000 interagency agreement with Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo which is 100 percent funded by the State Department of Education with Subpart 3 VEA funds.

Curriculum Development

The Curriculum Project is funded through a \$60,000 interagency agreement with UC Davis, also utilizing Subpart 3 VEA funds.

It was moved by Joe Nunez and seconded by Laura Tower that the committee recommend that Vocational Agriculture Education preservice, inservice and curriculum development activities for 1984-85 be funded in the same manner and at the same level as 1983-84.

Steve Olson asked what the rationale was for the community college to underwrite half the cost for the preservice project?

Don Wilson explained that most of the college teachers come from the secondary schools.

Item #10. Report on the Progress of 1984-85 Agricultural and Vocational Education Incentive Grant Funding and Other Legislation Affecting Agricultural Vocational Education

Ken Harris, Executive Director, CATA reported on the progress of the 1984-85 Incentive Grant.

Ken reported that there is six million dollars approved in the Senate budget and the six million is in an augmentation pool on the assembly side. If the assembly approves the six million it will not be a conference item and unless the governor vetoes it we will have six million.

If the assembly does not approve the six million, it will go to a conference committee. The proposed language change would allow the districts to use salaries to match. The Incentive Grant funds may not be used for salaries.

Joe Nunez expressed a concern from some teachers that this is soft money, and if the district withdraws its instructional dollar support and then doesn't get the Incentive Grant funds in another year, where does that leave the department?

The answer was "history will tell."

Item #11. Review of Details for the June 27 Committee Activities and Meeting

Don Wilson reported that there will not be an "administrator day", instead there will be an advisory committee day scheduled for Local Advisory Committee members at the CATA Conference. (See Attachment #2).

It was agreed by this committee that we would hold our next State Agriculture Vocational Education Advisory Committee meeting at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo on Wednesday, June 27th from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The agenda will include:

- ..Update on Standards from CATA
- ..Role of Vocational Education in the Comprehensive High School
- ..Impact of Educational Reform on Electives
(These last two items are carried over from April 30 agenda)
- ..Update on 1984-85 Agriculture Vocational Education Incentive Grant

Item #9. Review of the Vocational Agriculture Program in ROC/Ps and Regular Districts

Don Wilson reported that a few years back less than 50% of the ROC/Ps were out of compliance.

Recently the department has reviewed two ROC/Ps and one district. Of the 25 different agriculture programs reviewed only one was in compliance. Areas out of compliance included:

- ..Lack of Job Market Information.
- ..Duration and intensity, such as approved for 180 hours of instruction and offering only 100 hours.
- ..Offering course for 150 hours of fitting and showing and counting hours students were feeding and caring for their own project, thereby generating large amounts of ADA and dollars.
- ..Community classroom and Co-op has some real problems. In parts of Merced ROP, students were working for parents and receiving ADA.

We are reviewing regular district Vocational Education programs using existing State Plan Standards which are not very demanding.

Other Items

Larry Rathbun expressed the need for this committee to address Supervised Occupational Experience Program at some further date. Discussion followed.

Steve Olsen asked the committee if there was a need for letterhead stationary:

- ..Ken Harris was requested to obtain appropriate stationary.
- ..Steve Olson will write a letter to Elk Grove FFA students and Mike Calicura thanking them for a job very well done and for taking time to share with this committee.

Ken Harris brought up the issue of "FFA being integral to instruction. He said that dues and fees will be discussed at the State Conference.

Item #7. What is Really Being Taught or is Occurring in Secondary Vocational Agriculture Program

This item should be held for later consideration. CATA is working on this.

Project Life-Lab

Don Wilson will contact individuals responsible to indicate the committee's consideration. All correspondence should go through Don. (Refer to Don for proper wording).

Mark Linder provided the committee information on "Agriculture in the Classroom" movement scheduled for May 22, 1984 at the California Farm Bureau Building in Sacramento. (See Attachment #3).

Laura Tower asked if the committee could set the date for the meeting following San Luis Obispo. Date of meeting following San Luis Obispo is scheduled for August 1, 1984 at 10:00 a.m. in Sacramento at the Farm Bureau Building.

- ..One item for the agenda will be the Incentive Grant allocation.

The committee was reminded to send additional agenda items for the San Luis Obispo meeting to Don or Steve.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15.