



students earlier than SLHS, transportation from SLEHS to SLHS will occur. Transportation planning is still ongoing for transferring students from SLHS to SLEHS.

L. Jackson stated that each school wants to have its own identity so combined sports and activities would be kept to a minimum.

**Michigan Merit Exam:** L. Jackson discussed option of testing over 2 full days versus 3 half days. A majority of districts will be using 2 full days because it's the least disruptive to all grades. After having the month to solicit feedback and consider options further, members agreed that 2 full days is best. Therefore, testing will probably be March 13 & 14, 2007 with the ACT given on March 13 and the Michigan Work Keys exam given on March 14. Juniors only attend and regular school hours apply.

**Drug Dogs:** School was sniffed Wednesday Nov. 8. Took longer than anticipated due to fewer dogs available. Future searches will have 8-11 dogs. All halls, locker rooms, varsity room and parking lot were sniffed. Vehicle of one student was identified by dogs as containing drugs and marijuana was found during the vehicle search. Several other students' items were suspect but upon further investigation were eliminated. L. Jackson commended all students and staff for their cooperation. After much discussion concerning the process, the following explanations were stated by L. Jackson:

- a. Dogs are trained to sniff for marijuana, cocaine, heroin and methamphetamines.
- b. Scent from up to 3 years prior can be detected by dogs.
- c. If dogs identify property, a search of the property is done in front of the owner.
- d. Parents/guardians of all students whose property was identified were notified.
- e. Decided not to have purses left in halls for security reasons. If student has a backpack, purse will be placed in backpack prior to leaving it in hall for sniffing, otherwise student may keep purse in classroom.
- f. Student help is needed to rid school of drugs. Anyone can confidentially notify administrators or teachers of known drug possession on SLHS campus.

**Cell Phone Use in School:** D. Brandon requested that all students and staff be reminded that School Board policy is no student cell phone use in school during school hours. All student cell phones must be turned off and kept out of sight. Students are also prohibited from calling home from classroom phones. All students who need to call home must go to attendance office.

**Grading System:** Some dissatisfaction with the new grading system was expressed. Parents also had both concerns and questions. Some of the concerns expressed were that the new system is confusing, it was not explained well, it has been difficult to adjust to, it has lowered overall grade point averages of many students, it has stressed students out due to increased emphasis on tests, and it has caused many students to feel that doing homework is pointless due to greatly reduced role in grade calculations. Much discussion ensued. L. Jackson explained the following:

- a. Overall grade point is computed by averaging grades (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, E=0), not averaging percentages.
- b. Goal is for students to leave school with knowledge, not just a grade point.

- c. Grades are based on whether students met the objectives of the class and are therefore more representative of what students actually know.
- d. Colleges examine 3 primary items for entering students: ACT/SAT scores, number/type of courses taken, overall grade point average.
- e. Many colleges recalculate grade point averages after removing all but academic and AP classes. Colleges then look at ACT/SAT scores and a correlation with grade point average.
- f. As a student's knowledge base grows, his/her performance on the ACT/SAT will improve and will be viewed in relationship to his/her grade point average.
- g. Colleges are more concerned with how much a student has learned as a predictor of performance in college-level courses.
- h. If an entire SLHS class receives very low test scores, that indicates the teacher should stop and re-teach and re-test that material so students will learn it. "Curving" the test does the students a disservice as the improved grades will indicate they learned the material when they actually did not.
- i. Rumor that grades from Novi HS were discounted by colleges is untrue.
- j. Teachers have some discretion in raising a semester grade one increment. For example, a teacher could raise a student's final grade from a B+ to an A- if warranted.
- k. The Grading and Reporting Committee will be asked to convene this year during the first and second semester to discuss issues and concerns within the confines of the district parameters.

**Tabled Items:** Due to time constraints, the following agenda item was tabled until the next meeting: 2007-2008 Curriculum

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday December 13, 2006 2:35 pm Office Conference Room

Motion to adjourn made by R. Swain, seconded by D. Brandon. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by: D. Beagle, Secretary