

May 28, 2014

School Board Education Committee

Centennial Administration Building Board Room

**Minutes**

**PRESENT:**

**Committee Members:** Mrs. Betty Huf, Mr. Mark B. Miller, Mrs. Jane Schrader Lynch, Mr. Charles Kleinschmidt

**Staff:**

Dr. Joyce Mundy, Dr. Jennifer Polinchock, Mrs. Christine Matik, Mr. Dennis Best, Mr. Michael Johnson, Mr. Michael Donnelly, Mrs. Keely Mahan, Mrs. Cathy Perkins, Mrs. Amy Campbell, Mr. Joseph O'Connor, Mr. Keith Bellinger, Mr. Ethan Leiby, Mrs. Denise Quinn, Mrs. Ivette Fiorino, Mrs. Melissa Sikora, Mrs. Bridget Gil, Mrs. Deborah Zweitzig, Mrs. Diane Stevens, Mrs. Maria Ansanelli, Mr. Jason Brokenshire, Mrs. Jamie Salembier, Mrs. Kathy Costello, Mrs. Michele Mielziner, Mr. Ignacio Jayo, Mr. Steve Beal

**Community:** Ms. Margaret Youne

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. There was an introduction of all in attendance.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of April 28, 2014 by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Schrader Lynch. The motion passed 3-0 to approve the minutes.

**Middle School Pilots Update**

Mrs. Melissa Sikora, English teacher and CRT at Klinger Middle School, explained that the pilot course at Klinger, "Communications", is intended to replace the existing 7<sup>th</sup> grade English course. She noted the teachers streamlined the curriculum and clearly defined what literature was going to be covered during the school year. Five different styles of writing were taught. Mrs. Sikora said the success of the pilot course exceeded her expectations. Students mastered the basic characteristics found in all good writing and developed their own style. Students were given specific checklists to evaluate their own work and all student work was kept in a portfolio which will be returned to the students in June.

Mrs. Michele Mielziner, English teacher and CRT at Log College Middle School, provided an update on the two courses introduced at Log College for 2013-2014. The first course is a co-taught literacy pilot. The second course is called "From Aristotle to the WWW".

The other teachers involved in the pilot courses are Mrs. Kathy Costello, reading teacher and CRT at Log, and Bridget Gil, teacher/librarian. Mrs. Kathy Costello spoke about measuring effectiveness for the co-taught literacy pilot course. She mentioned that the small class size enabled the teachers to customize instruction for the students. Growth was shown by the students in the areas of comprehension and analysis of texts. The students progressed from writing paragraphs to longer essays. The recommendations for next school year include keeping the class size capped, having it remain co-taught, and modeling reading strategies.

Mrs. Bridget Gil talked about Log's elective course, "From Aristotle to the WWW". The goal was to challenge students to develop critical thinking skills and academic writing skills. She has seen a great deal of progress with the students since September. Public speaking activities were held every Friday in class. The recommendations for next school year include maintaining the small class size, maintaining high expectations and rigor, and developing relevant and engaging lessons.

### **ESL Instructional Resources Proposal**

Mrs. Denise Quinn, ESL K-12 Coordinator, spoke about the process for textbook selection for ESL students in the District. She explained they started in the fall and reviewed five different publishers. The teachers had a set of required criteria that included flexibility in delivery time, balanced literacy, correlation to ESL, WIDA and Common Core standards, a phonics component, and technology. The teachers have recommended the "Reach" program by National Geographic.

Mrs. Schrader Lynch and Mrs. Huf stated the District should purchase what the teachers have recommended. Mr. Miller noted he would like an opportunity to read over the books.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schrader Lynch, seconded by Mrs. Huf, to move the request to purchase the "Reach" series by National Geographic for the elementary ESL students to the full School Board for approval. The motion passed, 2-1, with Mr. Miller abstaining.

### **9<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Textbook Proposal**

Dr. Polinchock, Director of Teaching and Learning, mentioned that this request had come before the Education Committee late in the winter. Mr. Joseph O'Connor, WTHS Social Studies teacher and CRT, explained the textbook being recommended, "United States History – Modern America", addresses what they need to effectively provide instruction at the 9<sup>th</sup> grade level. The book has numerous primary source documents and many options are available online. This book was "head and shoulders" above any of the other textbooks reviewed by the committee.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schrader Lynch, seconded by Mrs. Huf, to move the request to purchase the 9<sup>th</sup> grade social studies textbook to the full School Board for approval. The motion passed, 2-1, with Mr. Miller abstaining.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Textbook Proposal**

Dr. Jennifer Polinchock explained the textbook selection process for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies course. She noted the current text has a copyright date of 2005 and teacher resources do not match the PA Common Core standards. Mr. Ethan Leiby, social studies teacher at Log College Middle School, explained that the proposed text, "Discovering Our Past – A History of the United States" is aligned with the Common Core, has up to date teacher resources, and interactive Internet resources.

Mr. Miller stated he would like to talk to others who have used the book. He also asked about professional development and whether the vendor will follow through on providing the professional development that is required.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schrader Lynch, seconded by Mrs. Huf, to move the request to purchase the recommended 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies textbook to the full School Board for approval. The motion passed, 3-0.

### **Chemistry Textbook Proposal**

Mr. Steve Beal, WTHS science teacher and CRT, explained that in order to prepare students for the Biology Keystone exam, we eliminated the general science course. As a result, all of the current 9<sup>th</sup> grade students and about half of the current 10<sup>th</sup> grade students will be moving from biology to chemistry next school year. Jason Brokenshire, chemistry teacher, also spoke about why they chose the textbook being recommended, "Chemistry: Matter and Change".

Mrs. Miller asked if the teachers would still select this book even if we did not have to administer the Keystone exams. The teachers said yes, they would.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schrader Lynch, seconded by Mr. Miller, to move the approval of the requested chemistry textbook to the full School Board for approval. The motion passed, 3-0.

### **Anatomy Textbook Proposal**

Mr. Ignacio Jayo, anatomy teacher at WTHS, recommended the District purchase "Hole's Anatomy and Physiology Essentials 13<sup>th</sup> Edition" as the replacement anatomy textbook. The current book is out of date and at this time "A" track has one book and honors level has another book. In addition, they do not have enough books for all of the students taking the course.

Mrs. Huf asked if Mr. Jayo did any research on what other districts are using. He responded that he did some checking with other districts, but he did not like what the other districts were using. He also stated that most of the anatomy books are geared to college level students and there are not many anatomy books available for high school students.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schrader Lynch, seconded by Mr. Miller, to move the requested anatomy textbook to the full School Board for approval. The motion passed, 3-0.

### **Grades 1-3 Social Studies Textbook Proposal**

Mrs. Christine Matik, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, explained that currently the teachers use a variety of teacher created materials for social studies instruction. She stated that the District's social studies curriculum needs to be more vertically aligned and more consistent, with skill based instruction. Teachers met and reviewed material from three different companies. The recommendation is to purchase "Networks Social Studies" from McGraw Hill for social studies instruction in grades 1, 2 and 3.

Mrs. Deb Zweitzig, third grade teacher and CRT at Davis Elementary School, said this series has fabulous vocabulary activities and goes along with the Rigby reading program that we already use. She also noted that the teachers have learned how to navigate the EveryDay Math online resources, and this system follows along with what we already have in place.

Mr. Keith Bellinger, third grade teacher and CRT at McDonald Elementary School, said the recommended series has document-based questions and primary sources that the teachers feel are important. Mrs. Matik commented that the graphic organizers and maps in the book are very easy to read and user friendly. The technology resources are student friendly and teacher friendly.

Mr. Miller said this is what he is looking for. He asked about benchmarks and Dr. Polinchock responded that in all subject areas we are devising curriculum-based assessments.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schrader Lynch, seconded by Mr. Miller, to move the request for the recommended social studies textbook purchase for grades 1, 2, and 3 to the full School Board for their approval. The motion passed, 3-0.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schrader Lynch, seconded by Mr. Miller, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed, 3-0 and the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

  
Dr. Jennifer A. Polinchock

Director of Teaching and Learning