

April 28, 2014

School Board Education Committee

Centennial Administration Building Board Room

Minutes

PRESENT:

Committee Members: Mrs. Betty Huf, Mr. Mark B. Miller, Mr. Charles Kleinschmidt

Board Members: Mr. Steven Adams

Staff: Dr. Joyce Mundy, Dr. Jennifer Polinchock, Mrs. Christine Matik, Mr. Dennis Best, Mrs. Paula Voshell, Mr. Michael Johnson, Mr. Michael Donnelly, Mrs. Keely Mahan, Mr. Phil Vinogradov, Ms. Carla Capriotti, Ms. Mary Ellen Hopkin, Ms. Michelle Lockett, Ms. Jennifer Higgins, Ms. Nicole Onfrillo, Dr. Jacqueline Garcia

Community: Mr. Robert Shaffer, Ms. Margaret Youne

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. There was an introduction of all in attendance.

Mrs. Huf commented on the excellent work done by the students on their projects from the Pennsylvania Educational Technology Expo and Conference. Presentations of the projects took place tonight in Room 16 and the adjoining hallway from 6:30 – 7:00 p.m.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of March 24, 2014 by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Schrader Lynch. Mr. Miller asked for a correction to be made to show that they went back and retroactively moved items #1 and #2 to the School Board to be discussed by the committee as a whole. The motion passed 3-0 to approve the minutes, as amended.

Report Card Committee

Dr. Jennifer Polinchock, Director of Teaching and Learning, briefly discussed the proposal for revision of the elementary report cards. Ms. Christine Matik, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, spoke about the work of the Elementary Report Card Committee and noted that this evening's presentation is the culmination of their work on the revisions to the report card.

The first speaker, Dr. Jacqueline Garcia, teacher at Davis Elementary School, talked about the indicator descriptors. She explained that these are skills a student should master by the end of the school year.

Ms. Christine Matik explained the process of the task force. They had regular meetings to discuss the report cards, and then Christy presented to the faculty at each school. She also had office hours at the schools to handle questions from teachers.

Ms. Jennifer Higgins, teacher at Davis Elementary School, spoke about the scoring revisions. Using the same language on the report cards as the PSSA scoring has created some confusion for parents. The recommendation is to use a number for a score. She indicated that the committee stayed with skills that are measurable. The descriptors are similar for all grades, but they progress through the grades. Ms. Matik mentioned that the committee's goal was to develop indicators that are based on a rigorous set of skills aligned to the standards. They will have common indicator headings for all subjects K-5.

Ms. Nicole Onfrillo, teacher at Davis Elementary School, spoke about reading. She said the use of the present A-Z scale for reading levels causes confusion for parents. The teachers have to spend time during the parent teacher conferences to explain this. She mentioned that the skills are aligned to the standards.

Ms. Michelle Lockett, teacher at Willow Dale Elementary School, explained the speaking, listening and characteristics section and explained that "O" for outstanding was added to the list of possible ratings.

Ms. Matik clarified the behavior area and said the list of behaviors was taken out of the report card since assessing behavior is not measurable and it is not objective. The committee wanted to make sure the descriptors were skill based.

Ms. Mary Ellen Hopkin, teacher at Willow Dale Elementary School, explained the writing process and went over the terms focus, content, organization, and conventions. In response to a question from Mrs. Schrader Lynch, Ms. Christine Matik explained in more detail what each of the terms means with regard to the writing process for the students.

Ms. Carla Capriotti, teacher at Willow Dale Elementary School, spoke about rubrics and said the committee will develop rubrics for each grade level.

Dr. Jacqueline Garcia spoke about the learning characteristics and school citizenship areas. She said it aligns to our rationale of capturing the whole learner. The word "effort" was replaced with "persistence".

Ms. Matik explained that two indicators will be used for all exploratory subjects. She also briefly explained the implementation plan. Administrators will be communicating with the CRTs and will continue with professional development in the 2014-15 school year.

Dr. Joyce Mundy said she would like to thank Dr. Polinchock and Ms. Matik and the large number of teachers who worked together on the Report Card Committee. She also wanted to thank the principals and she said it was a collaborative effort.

Mrs. Schrader Lynch asked whether we took the proposed report card form from another school district. Ms. Matik responded that they did research other forms used by other districts. The team developed a form that works best for Centennial.

Mr. Miller asked if there will be more information for parents in the report card handbook and will all three elementary schools have the same handbook. Ms. Matik said that yes, there will be more information in the handbook and it will be the same for all elementary schools. The goal of the committee was to develop a report card that would be easier for parents to understand without having to go to a handbook to interpret what they were seeing on the report card.

Mr. Miller asked how we notify a parent when their child goes from satisfactory to failing during a marking period. Ms. Matik replied that it would be the same as we do now, with the principal notifying the parent.

Mrs. Schrader Lynch had a question about the implementation plan. Dr. Polinchock said that the intent of the implementation plan is to develop rubrics and we can present an update at the May Education Committee meeting.

There was a request for this to be considered as an action item at tonight's meeting even though the topic appears on the agenda as an information item. Dr. Mundy clarified that we need to have approval to begin the work with the teachers before the end of the school year. We need approval of the new indicators and the report card format in order to continue the process. Mr. Miller noted that the committee also can't start the report card handbook without approval now. He requested that next year he would like to see the schedule of professional development for the year.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schrader Lynch, seconded by Mr. Miller, to move the revisions to the elementary report cards to the full Board for action at their May 13 meeting. The motion passed, 3-0.

Learning Management System

Dr. Polinchock explained that the proposal being considered by the Education Committee is for a system for migrating all secondary curriculum, grades 7-12 to a learning management system. It is a web-based system where teachers can warehouse lessons and curriculum information. It can be used in a blended learning environment. One of the goals in adopting Canvas as Centennial's learning management system is to design template courses that can be replicated. A teacher could take a template course and adapt it for an honors level course or for other levels as needed.

Mrs. Betty Huf had a question about the cost. Dr. Polinchock explained that the costs are outlined on page 3 of the proposal. She also noted this is a new product. Mrs. Huf wanted to know what teachers used in the past. Dr. Polinchock explained the teachers used Google sites. Mr. Miller mentioned that he had volunteered to be on this committee

and his appointment was approved. He attended meetings on the learning management system.

Mr. Phil Vinogradov, instructional technology specialist, did a demonstration about Canvas, the recommended vendor. He explained that instead of teachers using different tools for technology, we would be using one tool. He mentioned that learning and technology is changing and we need one comprehensive learning management system. He said that Canvas works well across all devices.

Mrs. Betty Huf asked for more information about the proposed cost. Dr. Polinchock explained that we would pay per license per student and that money has been budgeted to pay for this expense. Mr. Miller said is in favor of web-based programs and he wants a plan to maintain and archive all of the data if the system goes down.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schrader Lynch, seconded by Mr. Miller, to move the learning management system to the full School Board at their May 13 meeting. 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 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,



Dr. Jennifer A. Polinchock
Director of Teaching and Learning