

September 28, 2015

School Board Education Committee

Centennial Administration Building Board Room

**Minutes**

PRESENT:

**Committee Members:** Mr. Mark B. Miller, Mrs. Jane Schrader Lynch

**Board:** Mr. Steve Adams

**Staff:** Dr. David Baugh, Dr. Jennifer Polinchock, Ms. Cathy Perkins, Mr. Ray Kase, Ms. Judith Hengst, Ms. Christine Matik, Mr. Joe Rutz, Mr. Travis Bloom, Ms. Cheryl Lyman, Ms. Heather Stek, Mr. Michael Edney, Mr. Anthony Quintangeli

**Public:** Mr. Robert Shaffer, Mrs. Leigh Lieberman, Mrs. Margaret Yaure

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. There was an introduction of all in attendance.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of August 17, 2015 by Mrs. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Miller. The motion passed 2-0 to approve the minutes.

**Family & Consumer Sciences Program, STEM Program and Summer Science Lab Renovations Update**

Ms. Cathy Perkins, Director of Teaching and Learning, explained the updates to the Family & Computer Sciences labs at the middle schools. She shared the topics covered in grades 7 and 8 and pictures of the improved labs. She expressed her thanks to our facilities team who relocated items from the technology lab to the Family & Consumer Sciences lab at Log and built the new Family & Consumer Science labs at Klinger.

Mr. Travis Bloom, principal of Klinger Middle School, provided an update regarding improvements to the STEM classroom. Two videos were shared with positive comments from students.

Mr. Shaffer had a question about whether Family & Consumer Sciences is mandatory or an elective. Ms. Perkins responded that it is mandatory in grade 7 and an elective in grade 8.

Mr. Anthony Quintangeli, Technology Education/STEM teacher at Klinger Middle School, talked about some of the STEM projects that were done in his classroom last school year and he shared pictures of students and their projects.

Mr. Michael Edney, Technology Education/STEM teacher at Log College Middle School, spoke about the STEM curriculum that included the KNEX projects that his students worked with to create bridges. For the robotics portion of the course, grade 8 students were challenged to build something like one of the rides at Dorney Park.

Dr. Jennifer Polinchock, Assistant Superintendent, spoke about the updates to the science labs at the middle schools. She explained there was a need for more lab science at the middle level to prepare students for high school lab sciences. During the summer, lab tables and related science items were purchased and set up for the middle schools.

### **Kuta Software**

Ms. Cathy Perkins explained that Kuta Software was used by teachers at the high school and it allows them to differentiate math instruction. Ms. Heather Stek, math lead teacher, provided more background information.

Mr. Miller had a question about the licenses and about information sharing. Ms. Stek explained that information can be saved as a PDF file and put on a shared computer drive. She said the licenses are set up per building. They are asking to renew the licenses for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II at the high school and to purchase licenses for two courses, Algebra I and Pre-Algebra, for the middle schools.

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Lynch, to move the request to renew Kuta Software for the high school and to purchase licenses for the middle schools to the full Board for approval. The motion passed, 2-0.

### **Keyboarding Software**

Ms. Cathy Perkins explained the need to implement keyboarding instruction sooner since it is no longer taught as a separate course in grade 6. She introduced Ms. Cheryl Lyman, Digital Literacy teacher at McDonald Elementary School, who provided more details. Ms. Lyman said they started with the free software, but the students were not engaged with it. The teachers researched other programs, and Typingagent is the least expensive with the most features. A demonstration was provided of this software program. Students obtain positive feedback and the program also targets and monitors how much time each student is working on specific keyboarding skills.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch, seconded by Mr. Miller, to move this request to purchase Typingagent.com to the full Board for approval. The motion passed, 2-0.

### **Professional Development Plan for 2015-2016**

Ms. Cathy Perkins introduced Mr. Joe Rutz, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction. Mr. Rutz explained Understanding by Design (UbD). He noted it is a curriculum framework. He stated that UbD provides for a transfer of learning, differentiated instruction, and increases student engagement. He shared a list of organizations and teacher preparation programs that use UbD.

Ms. Cathy Perkins explained the professional development action plan and noted that our plans continue through 2020.

Mr. Miller asked how we would measure the use of UbD. Ms. Perkins responded that teachers will be working on a unit with their grade level partner, so there would be a final product. The goal during professional development is to redesign one core unit plan, applying the components of UbD.

### **Media Communications Plan**

Due to a lack of time, Mr. Miller requested that this be a Read at Home item. Dr. Polinchock said she could provide a media update at the next meeting in October.

The next Education Committee meeting is October 19, 2015.

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Lynch to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed, 2-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ms. Cathy Perkins  
Director of Teaching and Learning