

December 21, 2015

School Board Education Committee

Centennial Administration Building Board Room

**Minutes**

PRESENT:

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

**Board:** Mr. Charles Kleinschmidt

**Staff:** Dr. David Baugh, Dr. Jennifer Polinchock, Ms. Cathy Perkins, Ms. Christine Matik, Mr. Joe Rutz

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

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

A motion was made to approve the minutes of November 16, 2015 by Mr. Miller, second by Ms. Morgan. The motion passed 3-0 to approve the minutes.

**ST Math Software Renewal**

Ms. Cathy Perkins, Director of Teaching and Learning, provided an overview of the ST Math program, created by the MIND Research Institute. ST Math is used for intervention to assist students struggling with concepts and for enrichment to challenge gifted students. It is visual, so it helps our ELL students achieve proficiency and uses games that are interactive, hands-on, and gesture based. ST Math is a research-based program that is closely aligned to state and Common Core standards for math.

Mr. Miller asked how the program is used now. Ms. Perkins responded that at the present ST math is mainly used for ELL and gifted students, but we are planning to have professional development so the program can be used with all students. Dr. Baugh explained that we have a grant to offset the cost and then we will own it moving forward. Dr. Baugh stated ST Math is one of the most effective intervention programs.

In response to a question from Mrs. Leigh Lieberman, Dr. Polinchock said we had licenses for 200 students to use the program. We are requesting unlimited licenses which is more advantageous and financially sound.

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, second by Ms. Morgan, to go forward with the one year renewal of ST Math and send it to the Board for approval. The motion passed, 3-0.

### **Approval of novel for middle school Social Studies**

Mr. Joe Rutz, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, spoke about the request to purchase the novel, "Chasing Lincoln's Killer" for use in the middle school social studies classes. Mr. Rutz pointed out this is a great title for increasing literacy across the content areas and is an effective way to insert non-fiction reading in the social studies curriculum. Ms. Perkins added one of the things we have noticed is our students are weak in the area of non-fiction reading. Dr. Baugh commented the District plans to move toward a breakdown of 60% nonfiction, 40% fiction, for grades 3-12. Dr. Polinchock said this particular novel reads like a story and is narrative non-fiction.

Mr. Shaffer asked if any other books had been considered. Mr. Rutz said we looked at a few others but this is a widely used book across Bucks County and ties in with the middle school study of the Civil War.

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, second by Ms. Morgan, to move the approval of the novel, "Chasing Lincoln's Killer" by James Swanson to the full Board for approval. The motion passed, 3-0.

### **Canvas Three Day Middle School Training**

Ms. Perkins explained Canvas is what we utilize for the learning management system at the high school. Canvas has already been Board approved, but due to the cost for this three day middle school training, she is providing this information to the Education Committee for review. Funds were already approved and budgeted.

### **Three Year Program Review**

In accordance with Mrs. Lynch's request at the November Education Committee meeting, administration is providing the Education Committee with an overview of existing and new programs put in place over the past three years. Programs were purchased either for remediation or due to gaps in the curriculum.

Dr. Polinchock provided information about the elementary programs. This year Centennial began in August with Journeys which is our Reading and Language Arts core program. The District is still in the implementation phase of Journeys. Lexia is a web-based program where students can practice their independent reading skills. Everyday Math was implemented in 2012 and is the math core program. It comes with a digital component and has common assessments and supplemental resources. For social studies we use the McGraw Hill series for grades 1-3 and Social Studies Alive for grades 4 and 5. Elementary science uses the Foss science kits.

Mrs. Lynch asked about student achievement with these programs. Dr. Polinchock responded we can track individual student achievement and see if they are making progress. Dr. Polinchock explained one of the limitations we have had over the years is not having a data warehouse. With the use of Illuminate this year, we have begun to make progress with refining student data. Mrs. Lieberman had a few questions about math resources which Dr. Polinchock answered. Dr. Polinchock provided a review of secondary programs and the recent changes made to the course sequence for Algebra and Biology.

Ms. Cathy Perkins spoke about the middle school programs. She said the District departmentalized grades 7 and 8 which allowed us to focus more on the content areas. New courses were added and we changed reading from every other day in grades 6 and 7 to every day.

Ms. Cathy Perkins spoke about the District programs that are in place such as the Lead Teacher model, K-12 Scope and Sequence, Illuminate, and two supervisory positions. Ms. Morgan asked if we have a list of those programs that were not successful. Ms. Perkins said we do not have a clear indication yet. Mrs. Lynch asked for the Education Committee to have information about the District's progress at the November 2016 Education Committee meeting. She requested an analysis of all programs from 2014-2015 be provided at that time.

Ms. Morgan asked about how the duration of kindergarten has changed over time and asked about full day kindergarten. Dr. Baugh responded that the big challenge is the cost of the implementation of full day kindergarten and space considerations. This is something administration can take a look at and get some preliminary information. Dr. Polinchock explained we have a half day kindergarten program throughout the district. Mrs. Lynch asked her to revisit it.

The next Education Committee meeting is January 25, 2016.

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, second by Ms. Morgan, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed, 3-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ms. Cathy Perkins  
Director of Teaching and Learning