

June 15, 2015

School Board Education Committee

Centennial Administration Building Board Room

Minutes

PRESENT:

Committee Members: Mr. Mark B. Miller, Mr. Charles Kleinschmidt

Board: Mr. Steve Adams

Staff: Dr. Jennifer Polinchock, Ms. Christine Matik, Mr. Michael Donnelly, Mr. Travis Bloom, Ms. Cathy Perkins, Mrs. Keely Mahan, Mr. Ray Kase, Ms. Judith Hengst, Dr. Dennis Best, Ms. Bonnie Zuckerman, Ms. Sarah Hobensack

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. There was an introduction of all in attendance.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of May 18, 2015 by Mr. Kleinschmidt, seconded by Mr. Miller. The motion passed 2-0 to approve the minutes.

Placement, Software and Services Contracts

Dr. Jennifer Polinchock, Assistant Superintendent, explained the information provided to the Committee which lists the contracts with various providers for students with IEPs. These contracts will move next to the Finance Committee meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Kleinschmidt, seconded by Mr. Miller, to move the recommended placement, software and services contracts to the Finance Committee for approval. The motion passed, 2-0.

BCIU Contract for Special Education

Dr. Polinchock explained this contract is an agreement with the Bucks County Intermediate Unit. The Special Education Services Agreement includes a schedule of projected costs of special education services provided by the IU for the 2015-16 school year.

A motion was made by Mr. Kleinschmidt, seconded by Mr. Miller, to move the BCIU Contract for special education to the Finance Committee for approval. The motion passed, 2-0.

Special Education Software – Maximus-Tienet

Dr. Polinchock explained the cost proposal prepared by Maximus for the use of Tienet software and requested continuation of the contract. The District is beginning year two of five.

A motion was made by Mr. Kleinschmidt, seconded by Mr. Miller, to move the request to approve the continuation of the contract with Maximus for Tienet to the Finance Committee for approval. The motion passed, 2-0.

Therapy and Evaluation Contracts

Dr. Polinchock said the Education Committee was asked to review the contracts with various providers and she is requesting approval. The agreement with Therapy Source is a multi-year agreement from July 2014 through June 30, 2016 for psychological evaluations, bilingual psychological services, and for speech services. Pediatric Therapeutic Services would provide speech, occupational therapy, and psychological services. In addition to these two providers, Ms. Judy Hengst has included a list of practitioners who would provide psychiatric and neuropsychiatric evaluations as needed.

The last contract in this group is with Lakeside Education Network for their Mainstay Program. This program is for counseling for social/emotional and behavioral supports to assist our students.

A motion was made by Mr. Kleinschmidt, seconded by Mr. Miller, to move the therapy and evaluation contracts to the Finance Committee for approval. The motion passed, 2-0.

Health Suite Display

Dr. Polinchock briefly explained the request by the nurses for educational material. She noted this is important because the nurses provide one to one care for our students. The educational material would be purchased from the Office of Teaching and Learning's budget. She then introduced Ms. Bonnie Zuckerman and Ms. Sarah Hobensack, certified school nurses at William Tennent High School.

Ms. Bonnie Zuckerman explained the goals for using this material for the health suite at the high school. She also showed some of the posters they would like to purchase and explained how they would be of value to the nurses when they work with students.

Ms. Sarah Hobensack spoke about the educational rationale and explained that they looked at the Department of Education standards. She also said the benefits of the health suite displays are comprehensive and promote conversation with students about health issues.

A motion was made by Mr. Kleinschmidt, seconded by Mr. Miller, to move this purchase to the Finance Committee for approval. The motion passed, 2-0.

CSSCA Update

Dr. Dennis Best, principal of William Tennent High School, spoke about the most recent report on CSSCA and the progress of our students. He said the purpose of CSSCA is to provide services to students in need of credit recovery and students who are identified as at-risk. With regard to graduation, 89.4% of CSSCA students are on pace to graduate with their peers. A total of 211 courses were completed during the second semester of the 2014-15 school year.

CSSCA Committee Report

Dr. Dennis Best said that a committee was formed to look at possible locations for the CSSCA program in school year 2016-17. The committee came up with four potential options: 1. Move the program to Swan Way; 2. Investigate a Twilight program; 3. Disband the program; 4. Move the program to WTHS. The CSSCA committee would prefer keeping the students in a setting with a blend of traditional and cyber learning and recommends option 1, moving to Swan Way, as the best option. In response to a question from Mr. Miller, Dr. Polinchock clarified that this is an update for information only at this time. She noted that in meetings with the architects they have been charged to look at the space in the new building with regard to the possibility of having CSSCA there. Mr. Miller suggested that we survey the students to see if they would support the plan to move the program to the building on Swan Way.

VITA Contract

Dr. Polinchock explained this is a renewal contract for one more year. VITA rents classroom space from the District. VITA provides services to families who do not speak English by offering English courses.

A motion was made by Mr. Kleinschmidt, seconded by Mr. Miller, to move this item to the Finance Committee for approval. The motion passed, 2-0.

Annual Curriculum Renewals

Dr. Polinchock noted that these requests are for already approved renewals that are moving forward to the Finance Committee and are being provided for information.

The next Education Committee meeting is August 17, 2015.

A motion was made by Mr. Kleinschmidt, seconded by Mr. Miller, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed, 2-0 and the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Dr. Jennifer A. Polinchock
Assistant Superintendent