

May 18, 2015

School Board Education Committee

Centennial Administration Building Board Room

**Minutes**

**PRESENT:**

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

**Staff:** Dr. Jennifer Polinchock, Ms. Christine Matik, Mr. Michael Donnelly, Mr. Travis Bloom, Ms. Cathy Perkins, Mrs. Keely Mahan, Ms. Shawanna Coles, Mr. Ray Kase, Ms. Michele Mielziner, Ms. Allison Kuchler, Ms. Bridget Gil, Mr. George Fischer, Ms. Kathy Costello, Dr. Dennis Best

**Community:** Ms. 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 April 20, 2015 by Mrs. Schrader Lynch, seconded by Mr. Kleinschmidt. The motion passed 3-0 to approve the minutes.

**Kindergarten Proposal**

Dr. Jennifer Polinchock, Director of Teaching and Learning, explained the kindergarten proposal was to request approval for a change in the delivery model for kindergarten for the 2015-2016 school year to have a half-day program for all kindergarten students with the class size capped at 18.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schrader Lynch, seconded by Mr. Kleinschmidt, to move the recommendation of the Kindergarten Review team for half-day kindergarten classes for all students with the class size capped at 18 students per teacher, to the full School Board for approval. The motion passed, 3-0.

**College and Career Readiness Course**

Allison Kuchler, Special Education Supervisor, spoke about the proposal. She said the College and Career Readiness Course proposal for grades 9-12 was modeled after a similar course that was started this school year at the middle schools. The purpose of the course is to provide explicit instruction to students with IEPs, based on the decision of the IEP team, as well as organization and study skills and social skills which align with the students' transition goals.

This course is not intended for students with attendance needs or for students who are failing due to lack of completed work. Allison mentioned that she has met with high school students who would benefit from this course and spoke to them about it. Their responses were very positive.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schrader Lynch, seconded by Mr. Kleinschmidt, to move the approval of the College and Career Readiness Course for grades 9-12 to the full School Board for approval. The motion passed, 3-0.

### **LocoRobo Pilot for Elementary Gifted Program**

Dr. Polinchock explained the proposal developed by Mr. Michael Scancellia, elementary gifted teacher, for the LocoRobo pilot for fourth grade gifted classes at McDonald and Willow Dale. They plan to incorporate robots into their unit on alternative energy. This is part of the curriculum covered in grade 4. Collaboration will be needed with the digital literacy teachers.

The pilot is funded by a Drexel University professor, so there is no cost to the District. The students will present their project at the February 2016 PETE&C conference. A follow up report will be provided to the Education Committee.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schrader Lynch, seconded by Mr. Kleinschmidt, to move the LocoRobo Pilot to the full School Board for approval. The motion passed, 3-0.

### **Educational Contracts for ESY and AEDY placements for 2015-16**

Dr. Polinchock explained the need to approve the contracts for the 2015-16 school year. Mr. Miller said the contracts are in the proper form and he would recommend moving this forward.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schrader Lynch, seconded by Mr. Kleinschmidt, to move the educational contracts for the Extended School Year placements for the summer 2015 and the Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth schools for the 2015-16 school year to the Finance Committee meeting later this evening for approval. The motion passed, 3-0.

### **Textbook Approval for Middle School Video Production**

Dr. Polinchock introduced Bridget Gil, librarian/teacher at Log College Middle School and George Fischer, teacher/librarian at Klinger Middle School, who spoke about the textbook they selected for the new course, "Lights, Camera, Action!" at the middle schools. Ms. Gil explained that the book they selected, *Video 101*, covers all aspects of video production and it aligns with the PA standards.

Mr. Fischer explained that the middle school students will be better prepared for the video course at the high school. The textbook has been proven to be effective and is relatively inexpensive.

Mrs. Schrader Lynch asked how many students would be taking the video course at the middle schools. Ms. Gil said there would be 2 sections of 15 students each, for a total of 30 students at each middle school.

Mr. Miller asked if the teachers had collaborated with the high school regarding the course content and Ms. Gil said that yes, they did. She added that this is only a preliminary request and they will come back in June for final approval.

Mrs. Schrader Lynch stated that she wants to move this along quickly and she said to simplify the process, we can move this along now for approval. A motion was made by Mrs. Schrader Lynch, seconded by Mr. Kleinschmidt, to move the recommendation for the purchase of the *Video 101* textbook to the full School Board for approval. The motion passed, 3-0.

In response to a question from Mr. Miller, Dr. Polinchock stated that we can prepare a Read at Home memo with more details prior to the textbook coming to the Board for final approval.

### **Textbook Approval for Social Studies**

Dr. Polinchock explained a committee of teachers is recommending the purchase of *American Government*, the newest version of the textbook that we are currently using in the Government and Public Policy course. Dr. Polinchock noted the request is preliminary at this point until we speak further with the publisher. Funds have been budgeted in the Office of Teaching and Learning budget.

Mrs. Lynch asked if we could fast track this request. Mr. Miller noted that the memo and backup information submitted this evening is everything that we need to know and that it is exemplary work. He said we could use this a model moving forward for other textbook approvals.

A motion was made by Mr. Kleinschmidt, seconded by Mrs. Lynch, to approve the purchase of the textbook, *American Government*, to be used in the Government and Public Policy course at William Tennent High School at a cost not to exceed \$62,805.16 and to move this to the full School Board for approval. The motion passed, 3-0.

### **Preliminary Textbook Approvals for Reading, English and Language Arts**

Dr. Polinchock explained this is a different type of textbook proposal. It includes one textbook, *Mythology and You*, which is used for an elective course at the high school. Reading, English and Language Arts teachers at the middle level are looking at the current novels being taught. In English class, they generally teach the classics. In

Reading class, they look at award winning books and themes relevant to the middle school learner. The next step will be for the committee of teachers to look at the list of books available, narrow it down and come up with a short list. The short list will be brought to the Education Committee for approval, probably in the fall. The titles on the short list will be available for the Education Committee to review.

Kathy Costello, reading teacher at Log College Middle School, said they are looking forward to continuing their work on this topic tomorrow during the in-service day.

### **2015-16 Preliminary Professional Development Schedule**

Dr. Polinchock explained there are three different types of activities for in-service: District-wide initiatives, building meetings and initiatives with principals, and curriculum development. There is a balance with all three types of professional development. The Lead Teachers will help facilitate. Support staff trainings will be developed for days when school is not in session.

### **Public PVAAS Website**

Dr. Polinchock demonstrated what the public would see if they go to the PVAAS public website. PVAAS measures how students performed on their previous tests to predict how they will perform moving forward.

The next Education Committee meeting is June 15, 2015.

A motion was made by Mrs. Schrader Lynch, seconded by Mr. Kleinschmidt, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed, 3-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Dr. Jennifer A. Polinchock  
Director of Teaching and Learning