

January 7, 2013

School Board Education Committee

Centennial Administration Building Board Room
Minutes

PRESENT:

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

Board Members: Mr. Hartline, Mr. Adams

Staff: Dr. Jennifer Cressman, Dr. Joyce Mundy,
Dr. Susan Klyman, Ms. Susan Bednarik, Ms. Megan Heim,
Ms. Karen Bennett, Mr. Sheldon Kernosh, Dr. Barbara
Stevenson, Mr. Ryan Mulford, Ms. Julie Henrich, Dr.
Catherine Newsham

Community: Mr. Robert Shaffer, Mrs. Leigh Lieberman

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. There was an introduction of all in attendance.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of November 26, 2012 by Mrs. Huf, seconded by Mr. Miller. Motion carried 3-0 to approve the minutes, as amended.

Supporting the Diverse Learner

Ms. Sue Bednarik, Intensive Learning Support teacher at Davis Elementary School, spoke about the needs of her students in the intensive learning support classroom. They require additional time to process information, and their processing speed is hindered. She briefly explained the Connecting Math Concepts program.

Ms. Megan Heim, Autistic Support teacher at Davis, said her students have similar needs to the ones in the learning support classroom, but in addition they have difficulty understanding language rich content. They have problems with short term and long term memory. Their learning is behavior based and they need a direct instruction model. She explained the Reading Mastery program.

Ms. Karen Bennett, Life Skills teacher at Log College, introduced the Styer-Fitzgerald Program and how it would benefit the life skills students. Sheldon Kernosh, Life Skills teacher at William Tennent High School, explained the needs of his students at the high school. The Styer-Fitzgerald program aligns with the PASA exam that his students are required to take every year and is research based.

Mr. Miller asked if we are using the program on a trial basis and what the District has purchased already. Dr. Klyman said the teachers came to her in September and they made purchases to meet the immediate needs of some of the students. The 2012-2013 purchases need to be approved retroactively. Dr. Klyman explained that the teachers could not meet the IEP goals without purchasing these programs. Mr. Miller questioned the \$18,000 2012-13 purchase for Reading Mastery and \$14,000 for Math Concepts since those amounts exceed Dr. Klyman's authority to approve.

Mr. Hartline said the funds are in the budget to make the requested purchases. He questioned the large increase in Reading Mastery and Touch Math from 12-13 to 13-14. He also asked if there are other districts are using the Styer-Fitzgerald program. Ms. Megan Heim responded that Central Bucks, Neshaminy and the Bucks County IU use it. There is a small recurring annual cost for workbooks and consumable materials. The Styer-Fitzgerald program is a one time only purchase. Dr. Klyman does not anticipate needing additional funds in 2013-14 for the Styer-Fitzgerald program unless we receive a large increase in the number of special education students next school year.

Dr. Cressman believes it is important to clarify that she has directed a change in process in terms of purchasing resources for students who require special education supports and services. Previously, district practice was to simply purchase those items required in individualized education plans (IEPs) and in special education settings on an as needed basis through IDEIA funds. Beginning this year, all such purchases are being directed through normal channels in terms of approval, including Curriculum Council and the Education Committee, before proceeding to the Board for final approval. Dr. Cressman believes it is important that these purchases be reviewed, follow the same protocols, and be subject to the same requirements in place for all other district purchases.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Miller to retroactively approve a motion to the full board for the expenditure of \$38,000 for the 2012-2013 school year as of September 2012. The motion carried 3-0.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Miller to approve a motion to the full board, for the 2013-2014 school year, expenses in the amount of \$65,000 to be included in the proposed budget for 2013-2014. The motion carried 3-0.

Program of Studies – William Tennent High School

Dr. Barbara Stevenson, Acting Principal of William Tennent High School, said a great deal of work was done by the administrative team at the high school, Dr. Mundy and the curriculum resource team on the Program of Studies for next school year, 2013-2014. One of the goals was to bring consistency to the format of the information presented in the document. They also looked at new courses and aligned the Program of Studies to the new common core standards and revisions to the Chapter 4 regulations.

Mr. Ryan Mulford, Assistant Principal at William Tennent High School and Ms. Julie Henrich, Assistant Principal at William Tennent High School, outlined the following changes to the Program of Studies:

1. Updated the language to comply with the Keystone exams.
2. The graduation project has been revised, with the focus being a career based project.
3. With regard to credit recovery, the administrative team wanted to give students the opportunity to make up more courses earlier in their high school career so that they could graduate in four years as mandated by the state. With acceleration, students may take a course in the summer that would allow them to take a higher level course at the high school. There is a revision to the CSSCA program so that it will include all grade levels.
4. For science courses, the team is recommending the removal of the Discovery Science class. It is being replaced with Biology for all ninth grade students.
5. There is a proposal to eliminate B track classes. Students in these courses do not master the content. All students would then have access to the material they need to learn in order to be successful on the Keystone exams.
6. Computer applications will offer three testing dates to students to test out.
7. The PSAT will be administered to all 10th grade students.
8. Two courses half credit science courses were added, Oceanography and Meteorology.

Mr. Miller said he is pleased and encouraged by what he has seen in this presentation. He asked what changes to the Program of Studies are as a result of comparison with other districts. Dr. Stevenson said the removal of the B track courses reflects the need for increased rigor and additional supports for students. This is what other districts are doing. Across the country, this is a marked trend. The acceleration opportunities are similar to what is done state wide and county wide.

Mr. Miller wanted to know if we can amend the School Improvement Plan to reflect these positive changes from the Program of Studies. Dr. Stevenson said yes, that it can be done. Our Improvement Plan was written as a work in progress. Dr. Stevenson suggested an accountability model be set up. She sent these ideas to Dr. Cressman and had a discussion with Dr. Mundy about this. Dr. Stevenson mentioned some other ideas that they discussed for changes such as after school tutoring, more summer school courses, twilight school, and collaboration with other districts to provide additional support for students. Mr. Miller asked if we have explored offering different levels of the same subject with the same teacher in the same classroom. Dr. Stevenson said yes, we did it this year in art. Mr. Miller asked about getting a rapid prototype machine, also known as a 3-D printer.

Mrs. Lynch said she is impressed with the work Dr. Stevenson has done. There was a question from Mrs. Huf about why the grade requirement for a course challenge was

changed from an 85 to an 80. The administrative team felt students who had a grade of 80, which is a B, had mastered the material well enough to qualify them to take the next level course.

Mrs. Huf wanted a response to Mr. Shaffer's email questions. Dr. Mundy will email Mr. Shaffer and the Board the answers to his questions.

Mrs. Huf wanted to know why we are offering a course called Gourmet since it is being offered at the tech school. Dr. Stevenson said not all students can go to the tech school because it limits what courses they can take at the high school. Mr. Hartline asked if there are plans to provide additional assistance to students due to the elimination of the B track courses. Dr. Stevenson said yes, they have planned accordingly and the model will be similar to the co-taught classes they have now. This will be their way of providing assistance to students who need extra help. He also asked about providing financial assistance to students who are unable to pay the fee to take the PSAT. Dr. Stevenson said assistance has been provided in the past and would continue.

Dr. Cressman said she wanted to recognize Dr. Mundy, Dr. Stevenson and the high school team for the work they have done in creating more rigor in the Program of Studies and creating more opportunities for our students.

A motion was made by Mr. Miller to forward the draft 2013-2014 WTHS Program of Studies to the full Board for approval with the addition of the course on page 30, Computer Assisted Design for Engineering. There was no second to this motion. Dr. Cressman mentioned that the request for the prototype machine would go out to bid, following the usual process and then go to the Operations Committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Miller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to move the draft of the 2013-2014 WTHS Program of Studies to the full Board for approval. The motion carried, 3-0.

A motion was made by Mr. Miller and seconded by Mrs. Huf to request the Operations Committee investigate the purchase of a rapid prototype machine. The motion carried 2-1.

Penn Data

Dr. Klyman showed a power point about Penn Data and how it relates to special education. Statewide collection of Penn Data takes place on December 1 and then on a cyclical basis in July of each year.

Dr. Klyman showed charts regarding the LEA Performance on State Performance Plan Targets for school years 2010-2011, 2009-2010 and 2008-2009. The population changes were noted. There was an overall decrease of 1% of total special education population from 2011 to 2012, but an increase in the number of students placed in approved private schools.

Centennial is exceeding the State Performance Plan in all three targets. We are mandated to adequately meet the targets and state indicators, therefore the increases in the special education budget are related to the targets.

Upcoming parent workshops

Dr. Mundy presented information on the three different parent information workshops that are scheduled.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mrs. Huf, seconded by Mr. Miller. The motion carried 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

The next Education Committee meeting is scheduled for January 28 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Joyce A. Mundy, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent for Education