

February 22, 2016

School Board Education Committee

Centennial Administration Building Board Room  
**Minutes**

**PRESENT:**

**Committee Members:** Mrs. Jane Schrader Lynch, Ms. Dana Morgan, Mr. Charles Kleinschmidt

**Staff:** Dr. David Baugh, Dr. Jennifer Polinchock, Ms. Cathy Perkins, Ms. Christy Matik, Ms. Judith Hengst, Mr. Michael Van Buren, Ms. Shawanna Coles, Mr. Michael Donnelly

**Public:** Mr. Robert Shaffer

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

A motion was made to approve the minutes of January 25, 2016 by Ms. Morgan, second by Mr. Kleinschmidt. The motion passed 3-0 to approve the minutes.

**Journeys Update**

Ms. Cathy Perkins, Director of Teaching and Learning, asked Ms. Christy Matik, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, to provide an update on our new Reading/Language Arts program for the elementary schools. Ms. Matik explained that administration met over the summer with the pilot teachers and put together schedules for each unit, along with guides and activities for the many resources available with the Journeys program. New this school year is an increased emphasis on language and grammar and moving from teacher-led instruction to more student interaction. Students are learning different ways of organizing text, and their writing has become more descriptive and more organized with rich vocabulary. Ms. Matik said the right resources help teachers be great and our teachers make these resources come alive in the classroom for the students.

Ms. Matik showed a video of teachers and students working with the Journeys language arts program in the classroom. The video showed clips from Mrs. Avery's kindergarten class at Davis, Mrs. Meeks' first grade class at McDonald, Mrs. Masey's fifth grade class at McDonald, Mrs. Angelitis' fourth grade class at Willow Dale and Mrs. Capriotti's first grade class at Willow Dale.

Ms. Shawanna Coles, principal at Davis Elementary School, said she visited a kindergarten, first grade and second grade class, all within an hour, and saw lots of text evidence and rich discussion and enthusiasm on the part of the teachers and the students for Journeys.

Mr. Michael Van Buren, principal at McDonald Elementary School, pointed out the growth in the students' writing with the new program. He also said consistency with the implementation of the program has promoted student growth.

Mr. Michael Donnelly, principal at Willow Dale Elementary School, said the teachers and students are very excited to show what they are doing. He is impressed with how much the students know and understand about the parts of speech.

Mr. Kleinschmidt, Ms. Morgan and Mrs. Lynch thanked the faculty and staff at the elementary schools for their hard work in implementing this new program.

### **Connective Learning**

Dr. Baugh and Ms. Cathy Perkins met with Mr. Will Richardson from Connective Learning Group regarding his presentation on August 29, 2016. Dr. Baugh said Mr. Richardson is a terrific speaker and he will help us have a strong opening to the 2016-17 school year. Dr. Baugh invited the entire Board to attend the presentation on August 29. Mr. Richardson will also speak to select groups about integrating technology in the classroom.

A motion was made by Ms. Morgan, second by Mr. Kleinschmidt, to move the contract with Mr. Will Richardson of Connective Learning in the amount of \$2,500 to the Board for approval. The motion passed, 3-0.

### **Kindergarten Task Force Update**

Dr. Baugh summarized the final report produced by the Kindergarten Task Force. He said full-day kindergarten can produce long term educational gains and offers social, emotional and intellectual benefits. There are also lower retention rates and fewer special education referrals.

Dr. Baugh briefly explained the history of kindergarten in Centennial. He outlined the pros and cons and noted it is difficult to make a decision for this year because we do not know about the funding coming from the state. There are concerns about making a change too quickly without considering all the repercussions. The District will survey parents who are registering their children for kindergarten regarding full-day or half day kindergarten. Administration will make a full recommendation when more data is available.

The next Education Committee meeting date is to be determined.

A motion was made by Ms. Morgan, second by Mr. Kleinschmidt to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed, 3-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ms. Cathy Perkins  
Director of Teaching and Learning