

January 25, 2016

School Board Education Committee

Centennial Administration Building Board Room

Minutes

PRESENT:

Committee Members: Mr. Mark B. Miller, Ms. Dana Morgan, Mr. Charles Kleinschmidt

Board: Mr. Steve Adams

Staff: Dr. David Baugh, Dr. Jennifer Polinchock, Ms. Cathy Perkins, Joe Rutz, Ms. Judith Hengst, Mr. Ray Kase

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m by Mr. Miller. He chaired the meeting due to Mrs. Lynch's absence. There was an introduction of all in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of December 21, 2015 by Ms. Morgan, second by Mr. Miller. The motion passed 2-0 to approve the minutes.

Mr. Kleinschmidt arrived at 6:05 p.m.

William Tennent High School Film Festival

Ms. Cathy Perkins, Director of Teaching and Learning, asked Dr. Best and Ms. McCaffery to discuss their proposal for "Behind the Lens", the William Tennent High School Film Festival. Dr. Best, WTHS principal, provided background information. Ms. McCaffery, Communications/Digital Production teacher at WTHS, said the film festival is planned for Thursday, April 28 at 7:00 p.m. in the WTHS auditorium. Ms. McCaffery noted the various genres/categories for the films and explained there is an alumni and friends category that will be judged separately. There will be guest judges and winners will be announced that evening. She showed a short promotional video prepared by the students.

Mr. Miller said he would donate the media backdrop. Ms. Morgan visited McDonald Elementary School on January 22 to do the morning announcements and commented on her experience with the 4th and 5th grade students.

William Tennent High School Choir Trip to Austria

Dr. Best said the tour company reached out to the high school to cancel the tour scheduled for this summer. Refunds have been provided to students and their families. Mr. Miller noted this is why we have two approvals, preliminary and final approval. He suggested that in the future if there is a cancellation, administration would not submit the trip to the Board for final approval but could simply provide the updated information to Dr. Baugh to pass along to the Board.

Mr. Kleinschmidt said he appreciated the information being provided to the Education Committee.

Camp Invention

Ms. Perkins explained that she was approached by Camp Invention to partner with them to provide a summer day camp opportunity for our elementary students in grades 1 through 6. Camp Invention is a non-profit organization that designs and implements STEM enrichment programs. Many of our neighboring school districts have been using them for a number of years. Ms. Perkins showed a short video produced by Camp Invention featuring inductees to the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

Camp Invention would train our teachers and provide all materials. They also do the registration and advertising. They have asked us to supply five classrooms, assist with distributing material, and communicate information to families. The camp would run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at a cost of \$220 to the parents for the one week session.

Mr. Miller asked if we could enroll students from other school districts. Ms. Perkins said only Centennial students would be able to enroll since many of the surrounding school districts offer this. Mr. Miller asked about minimum enrollment numbers and Ms. Perkins responded they need a minimum of 35 students. Dr. Polinchock commented that with regard to the summer enrichment camp Centennial held the past two summers, the STEM classes were the ones that had the most interest.

Mr. Kleinschmidt said we should open the camp to all Centennial resident students not just students who attend our schools. Ms. Morgan asked if we could open another section if more students sign up. Ms. Perkins said yes, we can add more weeks as long as we have additional staff. Dr. Baugh said he and Dr. Polinchock support the Board members' interest in reaching out to all resident students to offer them this opportunity.

A motion was made by Ms. Morgan, second by Mr. Kleinschmidt, to move the request for a partnership with Camp Invention to the full Board for approval. The motion passed, 3-0.

Pearl S. Buck International School Leadership Program

Dr. Best explained this program was initiated by our 12th grade House Principal, Mr. Ryan Mulford. The Pearl S. Buck Foundation trains students in all types of leadership programs, and they want to offer this as a satellite program at the high school with the hope of making the opportunity available to more students. The program would run after school and on weekends.

Mr. Miller said a community member asked him about the statement in the backup that references students becoming “future leaders within our school and the Warminster community”. Dr. Best clarified the program applies to students from Upper Southampton Township and Ivyland as well.

A motion was made by Ms. Morgan, second by Mr. Kleinschmidt, to move the request for approval to participate in the Pearl S. Buck International School Leadership Program to the full Board for approval. The motion passed 3-0.

Math Quality Program Review Update

Ms. Perkins explained that Centennial has asked the Bucks County Intermediate Unit to perform a review of our math program K-12. Teams of experienced educators have been selected for the 14 member team that would do a three day review on February 23, 24 and 25. The review team uses a series of framing questions and probes that were developed at a meeting with the IU in November. On February 25 the review team will present a report with a summary of their recommendations.

Mr. Miller asked if administration is confident we have the right people to ask the questions. Dr. Baugh said yes, this is a team of mathematics experts and we are impressed with the team that has been put together. Centennial is looking forward to having concrete recommendations and a road map to guide our work. Mr. Miller asked if there is a recommendation for a change in the curriculum, would we be in a position to fast track this to make changes for next year. Dr. Baugh said it depends on the recommendations. Some of the recommendations we might be able to implement right away and some would take longer to implement.

Middle School Program of Studies Updates

Ms. Perkins explained the Middle School Program of Studies is the course selection guide parents and students use to select their courses for the following school year.

Mr. Joe Rutz, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, explained the changes for next school year. He said we plan to combine what we do in technology education with STEM. There is some overlap, so we can enhance and revise the curriculum by adding math and science. Honors Science and Honors Social Studies for grade 7 are also being added to the Middle School Program of Studies.

A motion was made by Ms. Morgan, second by Mr. Kleinschmidt, to move the Middle School Program of Studies updates to the full Board for approval. The motion passed, 3-0.

Behavior Analyst position

Ms. Hengst provided background information on the need for the District to hire a board certified behavior analyst. She said Centennial has approximately 100 students identified with autism spectrum disorder and 120 students identified as being in need of emotional support. In order to service those students appropriately, we need the services of a behavior analyst. We have been contracting with the Bucks County Intermediate Unit for the services of a behavior analyst and have found we need to increase the time of the behavior analyst. Ms. Hengst worked with Hannah Messner, Director of Human Resources, to develop a job description. The District could save money by hiring a behavior analyst and this would be reflected in a lower BCIU contract cost.

Mr. Miller asked about how the behavior analyst does their work. Ms. Hengst responded they look at time on task, do observations, gather information from teachers and develop a behavior plan. They might also analyze data a staff member has collected to see if changes in the IEP are needed.

Mr. Kleinschmidt asked about the timing of when the behavior analyst would start. Ms. Hengst responded most likely it would be a July 1 start date. Since we have the Extended School Year program, we would want some flex time to have the behavior analyst work for part of the summer with the ESY program.

A motion was made by Ms. Morgan, second by Mr. Kleinschmidt, to move the approval of a behavior analyst position to the full School Board. The motion passed, 3-0.

Full Day Kindergarten Task Force

Ms. Perkins explained administration has identified key stakeholders for the Full Day Kindergarten Task Force such as principals, various administrators, teachers, community and Board members. The Task Force will be researching the benefits of FDK, the cost of implementation and spacing concerns. The Task Force plans to meet four times during the month of February. They would report back to the Education Committee on February 22. Mr. Miller mentioned Pre-K and Dr. Baugh said Pre-K is another process and we would need more time research that topic.

Mr. Kleinschmidt suggested the appointment of Ms. Morgan as a Board member on the on the Full Day Kindergarten Task Force. Mr. Miller would like to have a Board member from each region. Meetings will be on either a Tuesday or a Thursday from 4-5 PM.

The next Education Committee meeting is February 22, 2016.

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