

November 16, 2015

School Board Education Committee

Centennial Administration Building Board Room

Minutes

PRESENT:

Committee Members: Mr. Mark B. Miller, Mrs. Jane Schrader Lynch, Ms. Dana Morgan

Board: Mr. Charles Kleinschmidt, Mr. Steve Adams

Staff: Dr. David Baugh, Dr. Jennifer Polinchock, Ms. Cathy Perkins, Mr. Ray Kase, Ms. Judith Hengst, Ms. Christine Matik, Mr. Joe Rutz, Dr. Dennis Best, Mr. Travis Bloom, Mr. Daniel Julius, Ms. Jennifer Frantz, Mr. Michael Van Buren, Mr. Michael Donnelly, Ms. Shawanna James-Coles, Ms. Julie Henrich, Ms. Allison Kuchler

Public: Mr. Robert Shaffer, Ms. Dena Criss, Mrs. Leigh Lieberman

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

A moment of silence was observed in memory of the victims of the terroristic attacks in Paris, France.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of October 19, 2015 by Ms. Morgan, second by Mrs. Lynch. The motion passed 3-0 to approve the minutes.

Mr. Miller asked for a motion, as part of the consent agenda, to approve item 4, Novels for Middle School Curriculum, item 5, Donation of Award-Winning Novel for Advanced Placement and Creative Writing classes, and item 6, Donation of Spanish textbooks from Quakertown School District. Motion was made by Mrs. Lynch, second by Ms. Morgan, to forward items 4, 5 and 6 as listed above to the School Board for approval. The motion passed 3-0.

Novels for Middle School Curriculum

Approved as part of the consent agenda.

Donation of Award-Winning Novel for Advanced Placement and Creative Writing classes

Approved as part of the consent agenda.

Donation of Spanish textbooks from Quakertown School District

Approved as part of the consent agenda.

2015 School Assessment Report

Ms. Cathy Perkins asked Dr. Baugh to address the members of the Education Committee on this topic.

Dr. Baugh said the presentation would consist of two parts. First he will discuss an outline of the challenges and focus of the District. For the second part, individual administrators will present school level performance data. Dr. Baugh explained that areas of focus include implementing the Comprehensive Long Range Plan and stabilization of the administrative teams. Centennial will be undergoing a math audit K-12.

Dr. Dennis Best, principal of William Tennent High School, presented data from the high school. He explained that last year marked the first time we had a cohort of students who have gone through the curriculum realignment for the Biology Keystone. Algebra I Keystone is the area that has been the greatest struggle for the District. The high school had a five year high in AP Testing for students scoring a 3 or better on the AP exams. Teachers continue to grow in their capacity to use student data to drive instruction.

Mr. Michael Donnelly, principal at Willow Dale Elementary School, spoke about the English Language Arts data. Third grade and fifth grade students on the whole scored above the state average in RELA.

Ms. Shawanna James-Coles, principal at Davis Elementary School, said students at Davis have met or exceeded the data in the PVAAS section. The high school students who do tutoring at Davis focus on areas of need with the students who scored Basic or Below Basic. The Davis administrators met with the fourth grade teachers to see what they are doing since that grade level showed so much progress.

Mr. Michael Van Buren, principal at McDonald Elementary School, spoke about the McDonald math scores. They will be focusing on improving literacy skills to help them with math since there is more reading involved in the math tests. They want to make sure students are actively engaged in learning and working on higher order thinking skills.

Mr. Travis Bloom, principal at Klinger Middle School, spoke about the middle school performance data. There was a decrease in overall proficiency in the last three years. Middle school students are performing well when they take the Keystone test in grade 8.

There is an increase in the number of students taking Algebra I in grade 8 and they are pleased to report that even some 7th graders are going to be eligible to take the Algebra I Keystone. The middle schools are putting academic support teams in place and also instituting an IST process. Mr. Dan Julius, Assistant Principal at Log College Middle School, reported on Log's results and said they are focusing on aligning the curriculum more with the common core.

Mr. Miller asked about results from the new reading program. Ms. Perkins responded it is too early at this point in the school year, but we will be providing the Education Committee with that information. Last year our pilot teachers found they had a lot more information by January.

Mrs. Leigh Lieberman asked about advanced math classes. Mr. Van Buren responded that we have a fifth grade teacher who has all the advanced math students report to her. Mrs. Lieberman asked about departmentalization, ability grouping and Math Counts. Various administrators responded. She asked about Keystone scores from eighth graders being attributed to the high school. Dr. Best responded.

Mr. Shaffer asked if the goal for Centennial in PSSA is to match the state score. Mr. Miller responded, no, the goal is to do better than the average state score. Dr. Baugh added that it is his belief that we should meet and exceed the state average.

2016-2017 William Tennent High School Program of Studies

Dr. Best stated that a preliminary draft of the 2016-17 Program of Studies has been provided for review. There were minimal changes for 2016-2017.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch, second by Ms. Morgan to move the 2016-2017 William Tennent High School Program of Studies to the full Board for approval. The motion passed, 3-0.

Mrs. Lynch sent an email out yesterday requesting a review of all new programs that we have used for the last three years. She would like to know what effect these programs have had on student achievement.

Dr. Baugh said the team has started to work on it and we can get together a report as requested. Mrs. Lynch asked for the report to be done in December. Mr. Miller asked about an overview of the new systems that we have in place with regard to data. He would like that included.

Ms. Dena Criss, parent in our district and teacher in another district, presented some information to the group regarding student achievement.

The next Education Committee meeting is December 21, 2015.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lynch, second by Ms. Morgan, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed, 3-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ms. Cathy Perkins
Director of Teaching and Learning