

May 22, 2013

School Board Education Committee

Centennial Administration Building Board Room

Minutes

PRESENT:

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

Board Members: Mr. Steve Adams, Mr. Michael Hartline

Staff: Dr. Joyce Mundy, Mr. Bill Gretton, Mr. Dennis Best, Dr. Bucky Clark, Ms. Michele Mielziner, Ms. Bridget Gil, Ms. Lori Warren, Ms. Melissa Sikora, Ms. Ana Cruz, Ms. Elizabeth Kempf, Mr. Michael Donnelly, Ms. Kelley O'Leary, Dr. Susan Klyman, Mr. Al Catarro, Ms. Kathleen Costello McAleer

Community: Mr. Robert Shaffer, Mr. Paul Rokuskie

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. There was an introduction of all in attendance.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of April 22, 2013 by Mrs. Huf, seconded by Mr. Miller. Motion carried 3-0 to approve the minutes.

World Language Pilot Course, Grade 8

Mr. Michael Donnelly, principal at Willow Dale Elementary School, explained his background with the study of languages and introduced the teachers who presented. Ms. Ana Cruz, Spanish teacher at Klinger and Log, spoke about the benefits of studying a second language. The sooner students start language study, the better. The goal is to have students achieve at the Superior level. She further explained the rationale. The Foundational Spanish course is intended for those students who are border line proficient in reading and writing, and it will give them a chance to strengthen their skills. The goal is for those students to have a smooth transition and to be successful in Spanish I when they take that course as 9th graders at the high school.

Ms. Elizabeth Kempf, Spanish teacher at Klinger, explained the criteria for identifying students for the course and how they plan to evaluate its effectiveness. Mr. Miller asked if there is anything that the teachers would change to their proposal now that the implementation of the common core standards has been delayed. Ms. Kempf responded that their main goal for the students is proficiency, so that is the focus. Mr. Hartline asked how many students would be in the Foundational Spanish course. Mr. Kempf said there would be 18 in a class, one class at Klinger and one class at Log. He also asked

what would you consider a success. Ms. Cruz said that if students continue in their high school career with modern language study, then that would be considered successful. Mr. Donnelly noted that the smaller group structure will also improve the students' speaking, reading and listening skills.

Mr. Gretton asked what this course would replace. Mr. Donnelly responded that it will not replace anything, but students would take Foundational Spanish instead of Spanish I. The course is for students who are recommended or who want to take Spanish I, but who are not ready for the pace and intensity of Spanish I.

Mrs. Huf asked how we would evaluate the success of the course. She wants the Board to be kept informed and up to date. Dr. Mundy said she wants to have a presentation to the Education Committee in January about the progress of the pilot. We will revisit the pilot after one year to determine the next steps.

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Huf, to move the Foundational Spanish course to the full Board for approval, together with a report as explained by Dr. Mundy. The motion passed, 3-0.

Middle School Common Core Pilot

Mr. Dennis Best stated this is a pilot program in the area of literacy. They want to integrate Reading and English. Dr. Clark noted this focuses on reading and critical thinking skills.

Ms. Bridget Gil, librarian at Log College, explained the vision, rationale and implications. The same things apply to all three proposed pilot courses. Ms. Melissa Sikora, English teacher at Klinger, explained the English communication course. This change would take place in the seventh grade English class. The students will focus on writing as an art and a skill. Ms. Kathleen McAleer explained about the Log College course and how there is a demonstrated need for this course. It is not for students using Read 180 as an intervention. Ms. Bridget Gil talked about "From Aristotle to the WWW" and how it is a rigorous course that will run adjacent to the language course at Log College. It works on media literacy skills and the goal is for students to be able to view their world with a critical eye.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf, seconded by Mr. Miller, to move these proposed pilot courses to the full Board for approval. The motion passed, 3-0.

Centennial Satellite School and Cyber Academy Reorganization

Mr. Dennis Best, Principal at William Tennent High, spoke about CSSCA and the plan to intervene with students earlier in their school career to increase the chances of them graduating. The team wants to bridge the gap between CSSCA and WTHS. Mrs. Huf asked about the number of students in CSSCA now. Mr. Best responded that they started with 40 in the fall, but the numbers will drop for next year as some graduate.

Mrs. Schrader Lynch spoke about her concerns with this program and what has happened over the years. Mr. Miller said he is in favor of giving this another chance to improve.

Dr. Mundy noted that we are going to make this a viable program, and we have a vision long term for blended learning and cyber learning. Mr. Hartline asked about what would make CSSCA successful. Mr. Best responded that he plans for decreased disciplinary rates, increased credits towards graduation, and improved attendance rates. Mr. Hartline said he would get the budget figures for this program from Mr. Berdnik.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the CSSCA reorganization program as a one year pilot under Mr. Best's leadership. Mr. Miller amended the motion to include that it should come to the Board with financial backup and targets. The motion passed, 3-0.

Mr. Adams requested an update to the Education Committee in January 2014 instead of waiting until June 2014.

Peace Center Training on Restorative Practices

Mr. Dennis Best, Principal at William Tennent High School, explained that he would like to train all of the staff at WTHS over a three to four year period in the areas of conflict resolution, peer mediation, empowering students, and cultural awareness.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf, seconded by Mr. Miller, to move this proposal to the full Board. The motion passed, 3-0.

Exception to Policy 5.7, Reporting Student Progress and Honors for WTHS students

Mr. Dennis Best, Principal at William Tennent High School, noted that we are faced with a situation at the high school similar to what occurred this winter with Keystone testing. He noted that we may not need this exception again next year, but he is asking that we continue with the exception for final exams.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf, seconded by Mr. Miller, to move this proposal to the full Board for approval. The motion passed, 3-0.

Change to final exam schedule for WTHS students

Mr. Dennis Best, Principal at William Tennent High School, explained that he wanted to move up the final exams for the students at the high school to June 13, 14 and 17. The purpose is to add more efficiency to the graduation process.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve this request. The motion passed, 3-0.

Curriculum Renewal, Language Arts, Read 180 Next Generation

Mrs. Kelley O’Leary, Literacy Coordinator & Staff Developer, explained that the District is currently using the Read 180 program. The upgrade to Next Generation comes with more technology and it is a server based program. With the e-reads feature, students can access this from home. The upgrade is part of the 2013-2014 District budget and works on our system.

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Kleinschmidt, to move the approval of Read 180 Next Generation to the full Board for approval. The motion passed, 3-0.

Family Literacy Program, Vita Education Services

Dr. Joyce Mundy, Assistant Superintendent of Education, explained that Vita is a non-profit company that approached us about providing services. Mr. Miller had questions about building security.

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Kleinschmidt, to move this request to the full Board for approval with security measures in place. The motion passed, 3-0.

Teacher Effectiveness Data Warehouse

Dr. Joyce Mundy noted that the District does not have an electronic system to keep track of this data. This program has been budgeted and can go forward to the Finance Committee. Ms. Andrea DiDio will clarify the recurring costs.

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Kleinschmidt, to move this proposal to the Finance Committee. The motion passed, 3-0.

Electronic signature for e-grants

Dr. Joyce Mundy spoke about the need for obtaining an electronic signature on documents. Mr. Miller said he is in favor of this because of the efficiency involved. He asked for the solicitor to review this information.

A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mrs. Huf, to move this to the full Board for approval, provided the solicitor has looked at the wording and provided clarification. The motion passed, 3-0.

Partnership Proposal – Wakefern/ShopRite

Mr. Dennis Best, Principal at William Tennent High School, introduced Mr. Al Catarro, teacher at WTHS, who has been working to bring the partnership to WTHS.

Mr. Catarro explained that ShopRite will help us set up a working supermarket in the high school. In response to a question from Mr. Miller about curriculum components,

Mr. Catarro explained that there are extensive written curriculum elements. Mr. Hartline said the hours of operation of the supermarket was an issue that came out of the Finance Committee meeting and he wanted to make sure we follow the hours. Mr. Hartline noted there is a 50 page document that went to the Finance Committee for review. Mr. Miller asked about the types of products that we would have in the supermarket and if they have to be ShopRite brand products only. Mr. Catarro responded and we would be able to have all products that are usually in the ShopRite stores. He explained that we would have to order 50 cases to get a delivery from ShopRite. They will stock us with 50 cases to get the store started and then it would sustain itself. Mr. Miller asked if the District would need any additional insurance. Mr. Catarro said we would check on this.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf, seconded by Mr. Miller, to approve the partnership proposal with Wakefern/ShopRite and send it to the full Board for approval. The motion passed, 3-0.

Mrs. Schrader Lynch announced the next meeting is on Monday, June 24 at 7:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf, seconded by Mr. Miller, to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Dr. Joyce Mundy
Substitute Superintendent