

April 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. Julie Williams, Mr. Matt Tomlinson, Mr. Steve Beal, Ms. Michelle Ciliberto, Mr. Michael Donnelly

Community: Mr. Robert Shaffer

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. There was an introduction of all in attendance.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of March 20, 2013 by Mrs. Huf, seconded by Mr. Miller. The minutes should be corrected to add that Steve Adams was in attendance on March 20. Motion carried 2-0-2 to approve the minutes. Mr. Miller and Mrs. Schrader Lynch abstained.

Curriculum Renewal - Science

Mr. Steve Beal, Curriculum Resource Team teacher at William Tennent High School, explained the key components of Understanding by Design: Essential Questions, Enduring Understandings, and Backward Design. He explained one reason for the selection of *Glencoe Biology* is that it is the newer version of the book we use now. It also has the best online component that they looked at and there is an English/Spanish component. The Glencoe textbook mimics the AP biology textbook and provides content that meets the Keystone requirements.

Mr. Miller asked if we are purchasing a blanket license for the district so that any number of students can use the online version and if there is an annual fee. Mr. Beal stated we are purchasing a 6 year license and the vendor will maintain the site at no cost. The online components are all web based, not CDs that have to be uploaded or repurchased when updates come out.

Mrs. Huf and Mrs. Schrader Lynch wanted to know what other school districts are using this textbook or considering purchasing it. Dr. Mundy stated we will reach out to our

vendor to get this information. In response to a question from Mr. Shaffer, Dr. Mundy and Mr. Beal explained how the curriculum was realigned in grades 5 through 9.

Mr. Hartline asked if we have surveyed the students to see who does and does not have Internet access. Dr. Mundy explained that the buildings take care of finding out which students do not have Internet access and therefore would need the printed version.

Ms. Julie Williams, Curriculum Resource team teacher at Klinger Middle School and Ms. Michelle Ciliberto, Curriculum Resource team teacher at Log College Middle School, explained the goals and the process they used to select new textbooks for the middle school science program. Ms. Ciliberto noted the book they chose aligns with the high school biology curriculum and has numerous online learning opportunities. The consumable worktexts are updated yearly. Students can write directly in the book and it can be kept by the 8th grade students to be used as a resource for the 9th grade Biology course.

Ms. Williams explained that the curriculum was realigned to create an 8th/9th grade block of biology to prepare students for the Keystone exams. The physical science units are being moved to 7th grade and the earth/space science units are moving to 6th grade. The teachers have also proposed to increase the lab components to ease the transition to the high school science courses. This was identified as a need in the curriculum.

Mr. Hartline asked if we will introduce in 7th grade some of the key components that the students will need in to know for the 8th grade science PSSA test. Ms. Ciliberto said the Matter and Energy unit contains a section on Electricity and Magnetism and chemistry components in 7th grade, which would address this concern.

Mrs. Schrader Lynch asked what other districts use these books. Michelle said that North Penn, Council Rock and Abington use it.

Mrs. Huf had a question about labs. Ms. Williams responded that common labs were developed in each unit and every teacher would have to do them with every student. This would give the students common lab experiences as they enter the high school.

Mr. Shaffer asked about the lack of student participation in science fairs. Mr. Beal explained the CRTs will be working over the summer to develop a plan to deal with this. Science fairs are time consuming and expensive. If they are able to develop a dedicated period in the schedule, this would help to take care of the accountability issue. Dr. Mundy said Mr. Shaffer is welcome to come to the first meeting during the summer.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf, seconded by Mr. Miller to move the proposed science curriculum renewal in the amount of \$166, 060.88 to the full Board for approval. The motion passed, 3-0.

Keystone Testing Results Update

Mr. Dennis Best, Principal at William Tennent High School, said there is not a great deal of new information on this topic. He shared the charts that were created to compare Centennial with the state. Mr. Miller asked if we have the tools to be able to get intelligent data to use for planning purposes. Mr. Best responded that we can get better information when the PVAAS data is released in October. Mr. Miller asked how we are using the data from PVAAS at this time. Mr. Best explained we are using it for student placements and to plan appropriate interventions for students. Mr. Miller asked if we are using data from SAS to see how it matches from PVAAS. Mr. Best responded we do not have one coherent data warehouse where all the information is stored. We have worked with Skyward to get some of the data that we need. Mr. Miller asked about the life of our contract with Skyward. Dr. Mundy noted we have one year remaining. Mr. Miller requested that administration do a review of Skyward to assess it.

Mr. Shaffer asked about Centennial's goals with Keystone exams as compared to the state scores. Mr. Best said we are trying to exceed the state's goals and to be the best that we can. Mr. Shaffer asked about special education students. Dennis explained that the special education students need to score at the same level as non-identified students.

William Tennent High School Graduation Project

Mr. Dennis Best, Principal at William Tennent High School, noted that in response to the updated Chapter 4 requirements from the PA Department of Education, a group from WTHS met to create something that would be model moving forward. The revisions to the graduation project make it useful and relevant to all students over time. The project is a standard requirement for all students, but is individual depending on a student's particular career path.

Mrs. Huf asked who is responsible to check off each year that students complete each stage of the project. Mr. Best responded that the responsibility is shared and for example in grade 9 it is embedded in the Computer Applications course. This course is mandatory. In 10th grade, all students will take the PSAT and this is handled by the guidance department. Resume building is embedded in advisory. In grade 11, students meet with their guidance counselors. In grade 12, it is handled by the student's 12th grade advisor and their English teachers. Mrs. Huf asked about accountability. Mr. Best explained the counselors are responsible to meet with the students, and Mr. Best is responsible for the counselors.

Mr. Best stated the graduation project will be included in the Program of Studies. The high school will track every student after the first semester of their senior year to be sure they are on track. Mr. Miller asked for the names of the team members who developed this plan be included and he requested that the graduation project revisions go to the Board for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Miller seconded by Mrs. Huf to move this to the full Board, along with the team members' names, to approve the graduation project. The motion carried, 3-0.

William Tennent High School Class Rank

Mr. Dennis Best, Principal at William Tennent High School, explained that a few years ago a decision was made to eliminate class rank for the current group of seniors. The current issue is that we do not have a numerical rank for the students which means we do not have a valedictorian or salutatorian. Honors courses are not weighted, only AP courses are weighted. Transcripts of students graduating this year do not have class rank or percentile distinction.

Mr. Best would like to address this situation by forming a small group of stakeholders to evaluate this situation with regard to class rank. This would be done in fall 2013. He plans to come up with a model, similar to the graduation project, that works for all students.

Mr. Best noted that we received feedback from parents and universities that not having class rank puts our students at a disadvantage. Mrs. Schrader Lynch said this is a disservice to our students. Dr. Mundy noted that counselors have answered individual questions and called universities on a case by case basis to clarify as needed. Mr. Adams indicated it needs to be corrected so that we have a system with class rank. Mr. Miller also added he is most concerned about what is best for our students, not necessarily what other districts are doing. Mrs. Huf asked to pull the minutes from the committee where it was presented and voted on previously.

Elementary Report Cards Committee Update

Mr. Donnelly explained that most of the work that the committee has done is with the format. Parents were on the committee and one of their suggestions was to move “characteristics of a successful learner” to the first block on the report card. The committee also discussed formalizing teacher comments and this will be gone over in more detail next year. Their goal is to make the report card more user friendly. Another goal is to create a handbook that matches the report card. They want to address the standards-based grading and make the report card easier to view for parents.

Mr. Miller asked that as we get these progress reports, he would like to see a copy of the report card in front of him so they can see the changes. He is also concerned about progress monitoring between marking periods. He noted that School Board members are also stakeholders and they should be made aware of when the meetings of the committee will take place. Mr. Donnelly responded that he would let Board members know once additional meeting dates have been established.

PDE Teacher Effectiveness Plan

Dr. Joyce Mundy, Assistant Superintendent, explained the goal for PDE is to reform the way we evaluate school professionals and look at how we train and coach for

professional growth. The model is based on the work of Charlotte Danielson. Centennial is a Phase III District. Dr. Mundy will continue to provide updates on this topic.

Mrs. Schrader Lynch announced the next meeting is on Wednesday, May 22 at 7:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Mrs. Huf and seconded by Mr. Miller to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Dr. Joyce Mundy
Assistant Superintendent of Education K-12