

September 26, 2011

School Board Education Committee

Centennial Administration Building Board Room

Minutes

PRESENT:

Committee Members: Jane Schrader Lynch and Cynthia Mueller
Board Members: Mark B. Miller
Staff: Dennis Best, Michael Donnelly, Keely Mahan, Al Heinle, Kelley O'Leary, Eileen Poroszok, Bucky Clark, Joyce Mundy, Dr. Cressman, Dr. Klyman
Community: Bart DeCorte, Michelle Chester, Daniel Lapsley, Don Epsly, Noah Lapsley, Robert Shaffer

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm. There was an introduction of all in attendance.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of June 21, 2011 by Mrs. Mueller, seconded by Mrs. Schrader Lynch. Mr. Miller requested that the minutes be amended. In June, a discussion regarding technology being in every classroom with Every Day Math (EDM) occurred. There was a commitment to insure use of technology and training. Mr. Miller requested inclusion in the minutes and an update on status. Principals clarified at this meeting that the technology has been implemented and training is occurring presently for teachers. The minutes were approved as amended.

Mrs. Mundy gave an annual PSSA overview. She reviewed AYP for the buildings. The attached memo discusses the strengths in performance, need for improvement, and program components designed to increase proficiency. There was a question from Mr. Shaffer regarding the status of the Keystone Exams. Ms. Mundy and Mr. Miller both confirmed that there is nothing new to report beyond the one year hold. Mrs. Mueller requested for each of the principals to report on EDM as part of their beginning of the year reports.

Principals' Reports:

- Mr. Donnelly: Willow Dale
 - Slide show that highlighted the new school, new mascot, first week, library, technology, and teacher developed technology workshops
- Mrs. Mahan: McDonald-Davis
 - Slide show that highlighted the Every Day Math Parent Nights. These were at 2 schools so far with almost 300 parents at each one. Slides

included pictures EDM with every day themes and morning meetings and Back to School Night.

- Mrs. O'Leary: Stackpole
 - The slide show included pictures of the final opening for Stackpole. On September 11, students came together for 9-11 at the flagpole.
- Mr. Heinle: Longstreth
 - Slide show demonstrated that this year's opening was smooth. It included pictures of 2011 LEAF Trip for grade 5 which brings academics into the real world. The trip had nature themes such as erosion, kayaking, and rock wall climbing. Writers' Workshop helps to reach reluctant writers. Pick from your own experiences- creating a book of topics. Mr. Heinle also noted that interactive boards are in every classroom and projectors are just about installed.

For All Schools: Closing Slides

Character Counts pillars: 6 Pillars of Character are embedded in all things.

Mrs. Schrader Lynch asked how things are going with the combined school populations. Mrs. O'Leary commented that this year is smooth. Mrs. Mahan talked about the key of communication and key people from each school being there. Adults really know the students. It includes the parents as well.

There was a question about buses. Mrs. Mahan shared that there are 16 buses. They are running smoothly. Dr. Cressman was asked about walkers. She clarified that they had hoped to transfer the crossing guard to McDonald Davis, but that was not possible. Our staff could not cross them as well. The solution was that the walkers are bused across to the neighborhood where they unload and walk home. Parents are aware that this is a temporary solution and there are 3 options including this one. Parents were contacted and seemed pleased with this solution.

Every Day Math nights were done for all parents and an EDM consultant ran those in conjunction with staff.

Mr. Donnelly provided an update on opening, construction and areas that they are still working on. Mrs. Schrader Lynch commented on the fact that the building opening was remarkable. It seems that all problems are solved. Mrs. Mueller thanked Mr. Donnelly and all administrators, their staff, spouses and others who worked over Labor Day to make the building ready for day one. Mr. Donnelly thanked everyone for not stopping until it happened.

- Mr. Best: Klinger Middle School
 - Mr. Best shared a Prezi highlighting BTSN, Relationships, Teamwork, upcoming events. Mrs. Lynch complimented that many students attended the Tailgate.
- Dr. Clark: Log College Middle School

- Dr. Clark shared a slide show highlighted BTSN, upcoming events, and Points of Pride. Mrs. Mueller acknowledged the custodian at Log College as a tour guide who was welcoming, excited, and representative of the investment that our support staff members give through their commitment and service to our schools.
- Mrs. Poroszok: William Tennent High School
 - Mrs. Poroszok shared a Back to School highlight brochure which included merit scholars, scores, advisory, Freshman Fun Fair, Faculty Academic Endeavors. She then shared a delightful video created by Mr. Walker's Video Broadcasting Class

Other Items:

A parent commented regarding 2nd grade at Stackpole regarding class size. The question was raised how the parents will be informed regarding class size changes that may occur and how that will be involved. Dr. Cressman raised that class size could be an issue for this year's budget as staffing is based on scheduling. This will be something for the Board to consider. Mrs. Mueller commented that the class size policy discussion usually entails raising them, not lowering it. She discussed the benefits that we have here due to strong teaching and a wonderful classroom environment. She encouraged the parent to attend committee next month.

Mr. Miller invited the parent to October 27 night at the high school where there will be county wide legislative meeting here in our district to raise concerns regarding funding issues related to state cuts. The parent appreciated the comments, but did ask to be part of the discussion. Dr. Cressman explained the process of changes like this one on policy and how stakeholders can be involved. Committees are important for people to have information and to contribute to decision making. Mrs. Schrader Lynch added that class size is a crucial issue to her.

Mr. Miller requested that the technology presentations be available on the website along with the minutes.

Mrs. Schrader Lynch thanked the attendees for coming and complimented everyone on their good work.

Mrs. Mueller stated that the next meeting would be October 24, 2011 at 7 pm and made a motion to adjourn.

Meeting was adjourned by Mrs. Schrader Lynch at 8:24.