

**CENTENNIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE MINUTES  
MEETING OF MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2011**

PRESENT:

Committee: Jane Schrader Lynch, Cynthia Mueller and Andrew Pollock

Board Members: Michael Hartline and Mark B. Miller

Staff: Joanne Brown, Bucky Clark, Kathleen Costello McAleer, Jessica Daley, Eileen Doyle, Donna Dunar, George Fischer, Jenny Cressman, Bridget Gil, Sheldon Kernosh, Kristen King, Kelly Kohler, Jennifer Konen, Kelly Kornuszko, Denise Kravitz, Khalid Mumin, Nancy Ring, Chris Shepper, Cheryl Ray Wolf and Lauren Zucker

Community: Jason Halczak, Leigh Lieberman, Robert Montgomery, Sean Mullen, Diane O'Connor, Kaitlyn O'Connor, Mike O'Connor, Paul Rokuskie, and Robert Shaffer

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M by Mrs. Schrader Lynch.

1. Introductions of all in attendance.
2. On a motion by Mrs. Schrader Lynch to approve the minutes (as revised) from February 28, 2011, seconded by Dr. Pollock, the minutes were approved in a vote 3-0.
3. Destiny Presentation – The librarians gave a presentation on our newly implemented web-based software system. Each of the librarians spoke to the advantages and benefits of Destiny. Mrs. Zucker described a situation in which the library was off-limits due to PSSA administration. Because Destiny is on a computer that can be placed on a cart, Mrs. Zucker was able to bring the book sign-out process to the classrooms. Thus, the system is mobile and therefore, the physical library space does not have to be an issue in the book sign-out process.

Mrs. Ring described how Destiny permits parents, students and school community to preview the resources through the book catalog. Webpack Express is a tremendous asset to doing research. Also, the system is accessible from home so that teachers can access it for lesson planning purposes. Teachers can place books on hold for students from home. This is a most convenient feature.

Mrs. Wolf explained that Destiny Quest makes up resource lists on topics for students doing research. The visuals that support the resource lists are highly appealing to our students.

Mrs. Shepper spoke to the safety factor of Destiny. The sites that are promoted are safe, reliable and child-friendly.

Mrs. Brown spoke to the efficiency and facility of Destiny citing examples of the clean look of the key word searches and drill-down subject trees.

Mr. Fischer demonstrated the assets of the e-book capability. EBooks can be borrowed by students. One can highlight passages in three colors: yellow, pink and green. Also, one can “book mark” a page and write virtual sticky notes near key text phrases. Once the book is returned, the highlighting and notes are erased. Another nice feature of eBooks is the dictionary tool. If a student comes across a word that she wishes to study, there is a dictionary tool that illustrates word study information. In addition, the eBook has a “read-aloud” tool. One other handy feature of the eBook is that the user has the capability and permission to photocopy 10% of the book, if needed.

Under the tutelage of Mrs. Gil, three Log College students presented a multi-media presentation using Destiny Quest. Students reported that the system provides objective facts on research topics. Students reported that Destiny is used more by students than the former system was. Destiny is highly appealing to students for its visual and graphic format. Special thanks to Log College students, Jason Halczak, Sean Mullen, Kaitlyn O’Connor and CJ Yondura Green, for their interesting and creative presentation using multi-media.

4. Dr. Dunar provided an oral report concerning the Elementary Mathematics Program training schedule. In addition to the May 17<sup>th</sup> In-Service Day, teachers will receive two days of training during May and June. Administrators are required to attend a 3-hour training to be held April 28<sup>th</sup>.

A question was raised last meeting concerning supplemental / intervention Math programs. Currently, we are examining three programs:

- Aha Math (an on-line intervention program that supports Everyday Math) by learning.com
- Triumphs by McGraw-Hill
- Focus Math by Pearson

5. Dr. Mumin gave an update regarding the implementation of the Keystone Examinations. Due to fiscal constraints The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) will delay the use of Keystone Exams during the 2011-2012 school year. However, Keystone Examinations will be administered this spring to establish baseline data for future use. The one year delay will permit time for our educators to work collaboratively to align curriculum as necessary. During 2012-2013, the following exams will be available: Literature, English Composition, Algebra I, and Biology. A Social Studies Keystone will be field tested in 2012-2013 for use during 2013-2014.
6. Dr. Mumin distributed a memo from the William Tennent BCIT Teachers communicating their progress in the curriculum renewal process. A formal recommendation will be made to the Education Committee in May, 2011.

7. Dr. Mumin gave an overview of the changes to date in the gifted programming at the secondary level and the students' upcoming leadership journeys. The changes have included students receiving academic extensions in their areas of interest and giftedness, advisory meetings with teachers of the gifted, and project based assessments for gifted learners. At the May Education Committee Meeting a presentation will be shared regarding the future plans for gifted programming at the secondary level, as well as data from the 2010-2011 school year. The changes will include students receiving academic extensions in their areas of interest and giftedness, advisory meetings with teachers of the gifted, project based assessments for gifted learners, one showcase night of presentations and projects for the middle school gifted students, leadership journeys and seminars for gifted learners grades 6-12 and flexible scheduling so students can have opportunities to meet as a cohort of gifted learners.

Mrs. Mueller posed several questions regarding the need for gifted learners to be grouped together for opportunities to collaborate, and encouraged the administration to examine the current schedule to assess ways to deliver gifted extensions, flexible grouping and permit students to participate in the music programs without having to compromise. Dr. Mumin clarified by starting tutorial at the middle schools sometimes forces students to compromise participating in music programming and gifted cohort meetings. The administration will take on the task of examining ways to deliver a diverse menu of options for students at the middle school by changing how tutorial is run at the middle schools.

8. On a motion by Mrs. Schrader Lynch to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. Pollock, the meeting was adjourned in a vote 3-0 at 8:35p.m.

The next Education Committee meeting is scheduled for May 23, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,

Khalid N. Mumin, Ed. D  
Director of Secondary Education

Donna Dunar, Ed. D  
Director of Elementary Education