



Centennial School District Education Committee of the Board

Meeting of March 9, 2009

Minutes

Attendance:

Board

Thomas Hezel*
Mark Miller
Michael Monaghan**
Cynthia Mueller
Andrew Pollock***
Thomas Reinboth
Joseph Simpson

Administrators

Jennifer Foight-Cressman
Sandy Homel

Staff

Gerald Aungst
Lauren Zucker

Community

Joseph Faust
Leigh Lieberman
Barbara Patrick
Robert Shaffer

* Alternate Chair

** Committee member

*** Alternate member

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Thomas Hezel called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

Mrs. Cynthia Mueller requested that the minutes of February 9, 2009, be amended to reflect Mr. Mark Miller's request that the Technology Department determine whether WTHS student Ian Adam's work using Dream Weaver on the WTHS website is able to be migrated to School Wires.

Mr. Michael Monaghan moved to approve the minutes, with requested changes, from February 9, 2009. Dr. Andrew Pollock seconded the motion. The minutes were approved in a vote of 3-0.

INTERNET LITERACY WEBSITE DEMONSTRATION

Mrs. Lauren Zucker, Leary Teacher-Librarian, and Mr. Gerald Aungst, Elementary IMG Teacher, presented an exciting overview of the website they developed entitled AllAboutExplorers.com. The purpose of the website is to assist teacher-librarians and classroom educators in teaching Internet literacy. The website was recently featured in a *New York Times* article and video. Mrs. Zucker and Mr. Aungst's work has also been published in Collaborating to Meet Literacy Standards: Teacher/Librarian Collaborations Linworth Press (2007).

Mrs. Mueller asked whether the Internet pathways that the teacher-librarians have developed on the district webpage are updated regularly. Mrs. Zucker assured her that the teacher-librarians regularly monitor and add to the pathways. Mrs. Mueller suggested that the teacher-librarians should publicize this resource to parents.

Mr. Hezel enthusiastically thanked and praised Mrs. Zucker and Mr. Aungst for the outstanding resource that they have developed and for their superb presentation to the Education Committee.

SCIENCE KIT PROCEDURES

Dr. Foight-Cressman reviewed the current procedures for stocking and circulating the elementary FOSS science kits. Mr. Philip Vinogradov, Lead Science Teacher, K-12, and she investigated outsourcing the kits in order to save money and alleviate the burden on the Facilities Department. After investigating three possible vendors, they recommended contracting with ECA Educational Services to assume responsibility for stocking and circulating the science kits. ECA provides the following services:

- Warehousing and kit storage
- Complete restocking/refurbishment of kits to “new” status
- Kit delivery to and from schools
- Live materials delivery
- Quality control
- Teacher notifications and accountability notices for administrators
- ECA supplements kits with extra items for teacher convenience
- Many items are pre-prepped to save valuable time for teachers

ECA has also agreed to credit our account with any unused inventory currently in our stock.

Dr. Pollock asserted that all students, K-12, should be getting as many “hands-on” science experiences as possible. Dr. Foight-Cressman assured him that, during the last science curriculum renewal cycle, the science curriculum had been revised to incorporate an inquiry-based philosophy that provides numerous exploratory- and laboratory-based experiences.

The Education Committee agreed to move the contract with ECA to the Finance Committee for additional discussion. Mr. Monaghan made the motion and was seconded by Dr. Pollock. The vote passed 3-0.

GIFTED UPDATE

Dr. Foight-Cressman provided an overview of the information shared with parents at the February 17 Gifted Parent forum. Changes to the high school gifted program and the delivery of GIEPs include ensuring that gifted services are delivered across the curriculum, rather than only in the English curriculum. Dr. Foight-Cressman also reviewed the proposed draft of the new screening process for identification of gifted students that includes a universal screening of all second graders. Dr. Pollock expressed reservations at focusing on grade two for identification purposes and encouraged administration to consider waiting until grades four or five. Mrs. Mueller indicated that she believes our current identification process is sufficient and that our teachers should be educated in noticing the traits of giftedness in order to ensure students are being screened. Dr. Foight-Cressman stated that she would direct the committee to revisit the proposed screening guidelines with the guidance provided by the Board.

POST-WILLIAM TENNENT HIGH SCHOOL SURVEY

Mr. Hezel reiterated his request for a face-to-face discussion with a student panel at the May Education Committee or at a special called Education Committee Meeting in June. Directors requested that the panel consist of students from a variety of academic and technical pathways to

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provide a diversity of WTHS and post-secondary experiences. Mrs. Homel agreed to identify and convene the panel.

ACADEMIC HALL OF FAME

Mrs. Homel has agreed to chair the Academic Hall of Fame Committee and will provide a report at the April Education Committee Meeting.

DISTRICT WEBSITE

Mrs. Mueller requested that it be documented in the minutes that Mr. Miller has received confirmation that it will not be possible to migrate WTHS student Ian Adam's website from Dream Weaver to School Wires.

Mr. Monaghan made the motion to adjourn and was seconded by Dr. Pollock. The motion passed 3-0. Mr. Hezel thanked all in attendance for their attention and participation and adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.