



Centennial School District Education Committee of the Board

Meeting of April 6, 2009

Minutes

Attendance:

Board

Thomas Hezel**
Betty Huf
Cynthia Mueller
Andrew Pollock***
Jane Schrader Lynch*
Thomas Reinboth

Administrators

Michael Devitt
Jennifer Foight-Cressman
Lisa Follman
Sandy Homel
Susan Klyman
Eileen Poroszok

Staff

Mary Corcoran

Community

Joseph Faust
Leigh Lieberman
Barbara Patrick
Janet Richard
Robert Shaffer

- * Chair
- ** Committee member
- *** Alternate member

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mrs. Schrader Lynch called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

Mr. Hezel moved to approve the minutes from March 9, 2009. Dr. Pollock seconded the motion. The minutes were approved in a vote of 2-0. Mrs. Schrader Lynch abstained as she was not present at the March meeting.

ENGLISH CURRICULUM RENEWAL: MATERIALS SELECTION

Ms. Corcoran, English Lead Teacher, 6-12, and Dr. Foight-Cressman provided a comprehensive overview of the new English series, McDougall Littell, being proposed for adoption in the 2009-2010 school year. The new series has been chosen for a variety of reasons, including: a rich and diverse selection of texts, the availability of an online text for each student (in addition to a textbook), and the excellent technological tools, for both teachers and students, to support the curriculum.

The various aspects of technology will be highly engaging for our students and in keeping with our Classrooms for the Future initiative. Through the adoption of this series, for the first time, there will also now be a strong programmatic articulation in grades 6-12. The philosophical approach of the series is also congruent with the 2008-09 adoption of Rigby Literacy by Design and the new elementary literacy program, ensuring a smooth transition from the elementary to middle school programs.

A motion was made by Mr. Hezel to move the adoption of the McDougall Littell series to the full Board for approval and adoption. The motion was seconded by Dr. Pollock and passed 3-0.

GIFTED UPDATE

Dr. Foight-Cressman provided additional clarification regarding changes to the GIEP process at William Tennent High School. She reminded our Directors that all rising seniors would be “grandfathered” under the terms of the previous Program of Studies. High school students, with assistance from their GIEP teachers, have completed interest inventories, are identifying their desired area of gifted delivery, and are selecting activities to meet their gifted needs. GIEPs are being developed to reflect the above changes and will be reviewed and approved by the parents at the GIEP meeting. Parents are being encouraged to bring their child to the GIEP meeting so he or she can have a voice in the process. Core subject areas, including English, mathematics, social studies, science, in addition to world languages, have been opened up to our students as opportunities in which their gifted services can be delivered.

Dr. Pollock commented that it is also important that gifted students have the opportunity to receive gifted services in such areas as music and the arts. Dr. Foight-Cressman replied that she envisioned that eventually all courses would be eligible as vehicles through which to receive gifted services.

WTHS MODULAR SCHEDULE DISCUSSION

The high school administration had been charged with preparing and presenting a modular schedule in order to remedy the current constraints of the 6-period day. After an extensive review of the data and implications of a modular schedule, it was concluded that a modular schedule, while increasing flexibility for student in terms of electives and intervention time, would significantly impact the instructional time devoted to core subjects. Dr. Pollock indicated that he could not support that loss of instructional time in core classes; this sentiment was echoed by other Directors.

Dr. Pollock made a motion that administration not pursue a modular schedule given the reduction in instructional time of the core subjects. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hezel and passed 3-0.

Mrs. Huf observed that the former block schedule should not have been discontinued. Mrs. Homel commented that under the block schedule: attendance was better, discipline infractions were down, and honor roll statistics increased. Dr. Pollock stressed the need to revisit the schedule configuration and to reach a decision in the next four to six months in order to ensure adoption for the 2010-2011 school year.

Dr. Pollock made a motion to direct administration to explore and bring back to Education Committee the following schedule configurations: an 8-period day, a 7-period day (variant), an extended day/extended school year, block (as previously configured), and A/B block. Mr. Hezel seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

ACADEMIC AND ARTS HALLS OF FAME

Dr. Pollock provided an excellent overview of progress of the WTHS Academic Alumni Hall of Fame Committee. They are expanding the committee to fourteen people and intend to distribute information on-line and through the district newsletter. The nomination period will be opened in June 2009, and the selection process will be made in mid-September. The award winners will be recognized in an assembly with juniors and seniors in attendance, a celebratory dinner with the community, and a presentation ceremony in the Hall of Fame in the new building. The inductee will be “A person who has excelled in his or her career and achieved greatness and statewide, national, or international distinction.”

Education Committee Minutes

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At the conclusion of the meeting, Mrs. Schrader Lynch asked how many of our students had had the advantage of a quality preschool program prior to entering our Kindergarten. Mrs. Homel promised to include that information in a Friday Update.

Dr. Pollock made the motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Hezel. The motion passed 3-0. Mrs. Schrader Lynch thanked all in attendance for their attention and participation and adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

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