



Centennial School District Education Committee of the Board

Meeting of January 5, 2009

Minutes

Attendance:

Board

Thomas Hezel**
Betty Huf
Mark Miller
Michael Monaghan**
Cynthia Mueller
Andrew Pollock***
Thomas Reinboth
Jane Schrader-Lynch*
Joseph Simpson

Administrators

Jennifer Foight-Cressman
Sandy Homel

Staff

Mary Corcoran
Philip Vinogradov
Lori Warren

Community

Barbara Patrick
Robert Shaffer

* Chair

** Committee member

*** Alternate member

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

Mr. Thomas Hezel moved to approve the minutes from December 8, 2008. Mr. Michael Monaghan seconded the motion. The minutes were approved in a vote of 3-0.

SCIENCE PSSA AND K-12 CURRICULUM

Mr. Philip Vinogradov, Science Lead Teacher, 6-12, and Dr. Jennifer Foight-Cressman provided the Education Committee with information regarding student performance on the 2008 Science PSSA. The high performance level of our elementary students can be attributed, in part, to the inquiry-based FOSS kits that are used in grades 1-5. Our middle schoolers also demonstrated relatively high levels of performance. Our administrators and Mr. Vinogradov share our Directors' concerns regarding the performance of the 11th grade students. As demonstrated proficiency on the Science PSSA is not a graduation requirement, high school students may not be as determined to perform well on the exam. Mr. Vinogradov will meet with his counterparts across the county, as well as with a representative from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, to identify and address concerns regarding student performance on the Science PSSA. Dr. Foight-Cressman will meet with Mr. Vinogradov and Dr. Devitt, Assistant Principal and supervisor of the Science Department, to create a plan to address these concerns. She will share this plan with the Education Committee at the February 9 meeting.

Mr. Mark Miller and Mrs. Cynthia Mueller praised Mr. Vinogradov for the development of the Science Department wiki. Mrs. Schrader Lynch thanked Mr. Vinogradov for his presentation and encouraged him to continue his good work on the part of our young scientists.

SCIENCE PSSA Performance in Context

Grade Level	State Average	Centennial Average
4	81.5%	91.1%
8	52.7%	64.7%
11	35.7%	28.6%

SECONDARY READING AND ENGLISH CURRICULUM RENEWAL – MATERIALS SELECTION

Ms. Mary Corcoran, English Lead Teacher, 6-12, and Mrs. Lori Warren, Reading Lead Teacher, 6-12, were present to update Directors on the Secondary Reading and English Curriculum Renewal Materials Selection process.

The high school and middle school English departments have spent considerable time over the past four months reviewing the products of four publishers using a common rubric. Ms. Corcoran described the new innovations in current textbooks, including the integration of technology tools and audio supports, texts and images that reflect diversity, embedded reading supports and PSSA eligible content and standards. The departments are also considering a vocabulary series for grades 6-12. In April, Ms. Corcoran and Dr. Foight-Cressman will present their recommendations to the Education Committee for their consideration and endorsement, before moving the decision to the full Board for final approval.

Mrs. Warren presented information regarding the three reading programs that we intend to introduce into the middle school reading programs: Corrective Reading, READ 180, and Making Meaning. Corrective Reading is an intensive, scripted remedial reading program that assists students with persistent decoding problems who are reading two or more levels below grade level. It is intended for a very small population of students who are performing at the Below Basic level on the PSSA. READ 180 is a powerful program that integrates technology, small group instruction, and independent reading, with teacher conferencing, to address comprehension needs. The majority of these students are performing at the Basic level on the PSSA. Our students at WTHS are currently using the READ 180 program, which has been met with great student enthusiasm and high rates of success. Making Meaning is a program designed to challenge those students who are performing at proficient and advanced levels on the PSSA through literature that presents intriguing ethical and social dilemmas. Continued instruction in reading skills and strategies are also embedded in the program.

Mrs. Schrader Lynch thanked Ms. Corcoran and Mrs. Warren for their excellent and informative presentations.

Mr. Hezel made the motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Monaghan. The motion passed 3-0. Mrs. Schrader Lynch thanked all in attendance for their attention and participation and adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.