



Centennial School District Education Committee of the Board

Meeting of June 8, 2009

Minutes

Attendance:

Board

Katherine Driban
Thomas Hezel**
Mark Miller
Michael Monaghan**
Cynthia Mueller
Thomas Reinboth
Jane Schrader Lynch*

Administrators

Jennifer Foight-Cressman
Sandy Homel
Susan Klyman
Maryanne Ormsby
Eileen Poroszok
Denise Wettstein

Staff

Marilyn Bernheisel
John Fafara
Shayna Kudgis
Matthew Tomlinson
Michelle Weiss

Community

Leigh Lieberman
D. Parra
Barbara Patrick
Robert Schaffer

* Chair

** Committee member

*** Alternate member

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mrs. Schrader Lynch called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance.

Mr. Monaghan moved to approve the minutes from May 11, 2009. Mr. Hezel seconded the motion.

Mrs. Mueller requested that the May minutes be amended to include the concern for students and their well-being that prompted the proposed move of the Dorothy Henry Satellite School. Mrs. Homel requested that the minutes be amended to note concerns regarding the necessity of multiple certifications for teachers to maintain compliance. Mrs. Homel also asked that the minutes reflect the fact that the current Dorothy Henry campus is not ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessible.

The minutes were approved in a vote of 3-0-0 with revisions.

DOROTHY HENRY SATELLITE SCHOOL PANEL

Unfortunately, no former students of the Dorothy Henry Satellite School were available to meet with the Education Committee; however, Ms. Parra attended to share a letter written by her daughter, Caitlynn Johnson, a former alumna of the satellite school, about her positive educational experiences. Mrs. Homel noted the following advantages to moving the program to the administration building, including: ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) access, the ability to participate voluntarily in William Tennent High School assembly programs, access to the breakfast and lunch program at William Tennent High School, as well as access to elective coursework. She also warned that the

district was out of compliance in terms of providing a duty-free lunch period and planning time for the teachers. Mrs. Huf voiced support for keeping the satellite school at its current location, noting that if the students wanted a William Tennent High School experience, they would have remained there. Mrs. Mueller expressed concerns that the teachers did not possess all of the necessary certifications and needed to access William Tennent High School faculty for certain subjects, such as physical education. She also suggested that closer access to the William Tennent High School guidance department would be advantageous. Mr. Monaghan cautioned directors that the elementary building and renovation issue should be resolved first. Mr. Reinboth agreed with Mrs. Mueller and Mrs. Homel and added that the move to the administration building would provide a better, more comfortable facility, additional administrative oversight, and access to the William Tennent High School library.

Ms. Driban suggested that the program be moved during the middle of the school year in order to give students additional notice and allow them to participate in the process. Mr. Miller assured her that that concern would be discussed at the upcoming Operations Committee Meeting.

Mr. Hezel made a motion to give the change in program site the Education Committee's blessing and move the topic to the Operations Committee for decision before moving the topic to the full board for approval. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Schrader Lynch and was passed 2-1-0. Mrs. Schrader Lynch and Mr. Hezel voted "yea" and Mr. Monaghan voted "nay".

ELEMENTARY REPORT CARD TIMETABLE

An Elementary Report Card Committee was convened to revise the elementary report card. The committee put forth a proposal to move to a trimester reporting schedule. Because of access to Skyward and the amount of communication teachers and parents have via email, it was believed that reporting progress quarterly held less importance than in the past. Mrs. Homel reviewed the committee's request and recommended that it not be endorsed for several reasons, including the additional expense related to transportation to have the elementary and secondary schools on separate schedules, as well as the 2009-2010 calendar already having been approved through Board action. The Education Committee took no action on this topic.

APPROVAL OF SECONDARY READING MATERIALS

Dr. Foight-Cressman presented information and fiscal notes for three proposed research-based reading programs for implementation in the 2009-2010 school year. The programs are: Making Meaning, READ 180, and Corrective Reading. By utilizing programs that address a diversity of reading needs, such as decoding, fluency, and comprehension, we can ensure the best match between learner and program. Additionally, by employing tiered programs, we are able to address student needs across grade levels and promote students from one program to another as soon as possible. It is particularly important for struggling readers that they have the opportunity to work through an entire program with fidelity in order to ensure success. For our students receiving special education services for a reading disability, continuity in programming is crucial.

Mr. Hezel expressed concern about the writing program, based in part on feedback from the William Tennent High School student alumni discussion at the previous meeting. Dr. Foight-Cressman acknowledged that our English teachers shared his concern and were revising the curriculum to include more rigorous writing assignments and assessments, as well as common quarterly cornerstone writing assessments.

The Education Committee composed the following resolution: "BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CENTENNIAL SCHOOL BOARD: approves the adoption of the secondary reading program in

grades six through twelve in the 2009-2010 school year. The fiscal note is not to exceed \$251,846.00.” A motion was made to move the selection of the secondary reading materials to the full Board at the June 23, 2009 meeting for approval. The motion carried 3-0-0.

WILLIAM TENNENT HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE PROGRAM

In response to questions generated by the Education Committee members regarding the high school guidance department practices, procedures, and configuration, the William Tennent High School school counselors provided a comprehensive written report. Additionally, five out of six counselors attended the meeting so that they might answer our directors’ questions. Mrs. Poroszok noted that, in an ideal world, the number of counselors would be increased from six to eight in the transition to the house model; doing so would ensure that there are two counselors in each grade-level house. Counselors expressed several concerns regarding adopting the house model, indicating that they preferred working with families in an alphabetic arrangement rather than by grade level. Mrs. Mueller expressed a concern that college application requirements and processes change and wondered how counselors would remain current. Mrs. Schrader Lynch was curious as to whether counselors saw all ninth graders early in the school year; counselors confirmed that they do. Mrs. Huf was concerned that the programs at Middle Bucks Institute of Technology were not being promoted heavily enough. Our counselors assured Mrs. Huf that the programs are popular and that the school counselors work very closely with the faculty and staff at MBIT. Mrs. Schrader Lynch offered sincere thanks for the excellent and thoughtful preparation that the counselors put in to their written response and presentation.

Mr. Monaghan made the motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mr. Hezel. The motion passed 3-0-0. Mrs. Schrader Lynch thanked all in attendance for their attention and participation and adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

JFC/rc