



Centennial School District Education Committee of the Board

Meeting of April 26, 2010

Minutes

Attendance:

Board

Michael Hartline***
Betty Huf
Mark Miller
Cynthia Mueller**
Andrew Pollock**
Jane Schrader Lynch*

Administrators

Dennis Best
Jennifer Foight-Cressman
Susan Klyman
Maryanne Ormsby
Eileen Poroszok

Staff

Gerald Albrecht
Albert Catarro
Gail Gismondi
Cynthia Henry
Robert Schrader
Heather Stek

Community

Robert Montgomery
Barb Patrick
Robert Shaffer

- * 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.

Mrs. Mueller moved to approve the minutes from March 22, 2010. Dr. Pollock seconded the motion. The minutes were approved in a vote of 3-0-0.

WTHS COMMERCE CENTER AND PROPOSED PARTNERSHIP WITH BUCKS FIRST FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Dr. Foight-Cressman framed the discussion of the William Tennent High School Commerce Center by indicating that the district had been approached by the Bucks First Federal Credit Union to create a partnership that would involve integrating a student-run bank, school store, concessions area, and ticket window into the new high school to give our students hands-on experience. Messrs. Schrader, Albrecht, and Catarro were instrumental in developing the concept and were present to gauge Board interest in pursuing the idea. Because the Business, Computers and Information Technology curriculum is about to undergo renewal, it is the ideal time to entertain implementing the commerce center.

Mrs. Schrader Lynch questioned who would be supervising the students and whether they would be compensated. Mr. Catarro stated that a supervisor from the bank would oversee the operation and Centennial would need to provide instructional oversight by a certified teacher, perhaps in the role of a job coach. Students would be trained and compensated by the bank through a work-study agreement. Students would also be required to maintain confidentiality and sign privacy agreements. Mrs. Mueller pointed out that the partnership works heavily in the bank's favor as it provides direct access to the student population. She commented that the partnership must be conducted in a professional manner and that other credit unions and banks might be interested in participating. Before proceeding, Mrs. Mueller requested that a request for proposal (RFP) be issued to solicit

interest from other financial organizations. Mr. Miller stated that he was familiar with the success of Plymouth-Whitemarsh's partnership with TruMark and suggested we investigate their arrangement.

Mr. Miller also asked whether the construction costs would be paid by the district or the financial partner. Mr. Catarro responded that Bucks First Federal Credit Union had volunteered funds to construct the banking area in the renovated high school. Mr. Hartline recommended that the language in the partnership agreement include responsibility on the part of the bank to restore the school to original condition, should the partnership be terminated. Mrs. Schrader Lynch concluded the discussion by stating that directors were clearly interested in pursuing the concept and supported instruction in financial literacy. She cautioned that she and other directors continue to be concerned about the over-commercialization of our schools and are sensitive to the need to protect our students, who are a captive audience, from undue influence from outside organizations. Messrs. Catarro, Schrader and Albrecht were charged with developing and distributing an RFP to other financial organizations and to return to the Education Committee with the results. Mrs. Schrader Lynch thanked them for their vision and excellent presentation.

SECONDARY MATHEMATICS MATERIALS RECOMMENDATION

Mathematics Curriculum Resource Team teachers, Mmes. Stek, Gismondi, and Henry, joined Dr. Foight-Cressman in presenting the proposed mathematics materials for consideration by Education Committee. Dr. Foight-Cressman provided an overview of the curriculum renewal process and explained that it had been a purposeful decision to place the secondary adoption a year ahead of the elementary adoption in order to provide the preparation and set a high expectation as to what we hope students will achieve in challenging, upper-level high school coursework. The curriculum resource teachers explained that, after a yearlong, careful investigation, different series, including Prentice-Hall and McDougall-Littell, were chosen to best meet the needs of students in different courses. Mr. Best commented that the new materials are more challenging, rigorous, and are aligned with PSSAs and Pennsylvania standards. He also noted that each series includes supports for students in completing homework accurately and provides online tutorials for parents to assist them in understanding the concepts so that they might help their children. The technology features, particularly those that utilize the interactive whiteboards that are installed in each classroom, are particularly exciting.

Mrs. Huf wondered what changes to the materials made them superior to what we currently use. Mrs. Gismondi responded that the materials are less repetitive and more challenging, resulting in better student engagement. The new series will require less supplementation by teachers to ensure that PSSA content is included in instruction. Dr. Pollock questioned how the needs of students who are not developmentally ready for Algebra 1 in ninth grade will be addressed. Mrs. Stek responded that the ninth grade inclusion math sections were proving extremely successful in providing additional supports and services to students who are struggling. Dr. Pollock also asked how teachers would cover over 900 pages of content in 180 days. The math teachers indicated that it was challenging, but possible to accomplish. Mr. Miller wondered how students who do not have access to computers at home are being assisted. The teachers indicated that those students are targeted when computers are given away by the district.

Mrs. Mueller made a motion to move the adoption of the proposed secondary mathematics materials to the full Board for approval and was seconded by Dr. Pollock. The vote passed 3-0-0.

Mrs. Schrader Lynch thanked all in attendance for their attention and participation and adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

JFC/rc