

Centennial to consider new 'middle school model'

By Gary Weckselblatt Staff Writer | Posted: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 9:45 pm

After several months of meetings, the Centennial School Board is close to approving what Mark Miller called “a new middle school model.”

Miller, the board’s vice president, said Tuesday night the board could vote on the plan at its April 8 meeting.

“The idea is to expand options for students and enhance academic performance,” he said.

He credited Superintendent Joyce Mundy with “a career of excellence” at the middle school level and said she was the inspiration behind many proposed changes.

“We want middle school students to be better prepared for rigor in the curriculum so their high school options are more meaningful,” she said.

Miller said students in grades six through eight at the district’s two middle schools — Klinger and Log College — are currently divided into two teams. That model would be changed for seventh and eighth-graders so those students could take more classes per day.

They would also benefit from the addition of curriculum leaders, teachers in the core courses of English, math, science and social studies that can help them “better build a bridge to high school,” Mundy said.

Mundy said the current setup has a “disconnect” because “we don’t have the right structures in place.”

The new model, she said, “will enable our teacher leaders to build a strong sending program.”

Also Tuesday night, board member Steve Adams broke the news to the community about the death of Richard Schrader Lynch, son of board President Jane Schrader Lynch.

He passed away suddenly last week of a massive heart attack at the age of 48.

“This one really hits close to home,” Adams said. “Mrs. Lynch is a close friend.”

Board member Betty Huf said, “We love her and our prayers are with her.”

A Mass for Schrader Lynch is scheduled for 10 a.m. April 1 at Nativity of Our Lord Church on Street Road in Warminster. Contributions in his name, Adams said, can be made to the church’s community center fund.