

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, May 12, 2020
(Virtual Zoom Meeting opened to Public)

PRESENT:

Committee: Mr. Nicholas Siano

Board: Mr. Matthew Bilker, Mrs. Desiree Tomasco, Mrs. Barbara Harvey, Mrs. Tracy Alberti, Ms. Kathryn Chandless, Mr. Dave Dezzi, Mr. Joseph Driscoll

Administration: Dr. Tina Kane, Dr. Constance Bompadre, Mr. Jake Gallagher, Dr. Dorie Pitone, Mr. Jim Orwig, Dr. Heather Logue, Mr. John Beltrante, Mrs. Christa Palladino

I. Call to Order

Mr. Bilker welcomed Mr. Siano as the newly appointment chairman for Curriculum, Instruction and Technology Committee Meetings. Mr. Siano led the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 6:57 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was done prior to the Budget and Operations Meetings this evening.

III. Approval of Minutes

The April 14, 2020 minutes were approved by the committee.

IV. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

V. Discussion/Informational Items

A. School Counseling – MNHS School Counseling Center for Social-Emotional Learning – Dr. Kelly McCool, Mrs. Karen Brodsky, Mr. Daniel Lang, Dr. Meg Henigan, Mrs. Jacqui Litz, Ms. Julie Migatz.

Dr. McCool, Mrs. Brodsky, Mr. Lang, Dr. Henigan, Mrs. Litz and Ms. Migatz reported on the MNHS School Counseling Center for Social-Emotional Learning. The mission of the counseling center is to promote the learning process and deliver a comprehensive social-emotional learning (SEL) counseling program. The MNHS Counseling Center consists of two counselors, a school psychologist, behavioral health worker and is supplemented part-time by a home and school visitor as well as a contracted therapist.

The counseling center's foundation will align with the ASCA (American School Counselor Association) to provide individual services, classroom lessons, small groups and school-wide activities addressing students' developmental needs following a multi-tiered system of support ranging from universal programs to intensive interventions. A

calendar of events are scheduled for the upcoming year covering a variety of social and emotional topics and a Wellness Fair is being considered.

A Trauma Informed Calm Room will be implemented. This provides a quiet space for students demonstrating a high level of stress and engages the student in the practice of breathing and mindfulness activities. The counseling department's website offers a variety of resources and professional development will continue with a series of trainings under the STOP grant. Trainings will be provided through DCIU from the Department of Justice.

B. Flexible Instructional Day (FID) Plan – Dr. Constance Bompadre

Dr. Bompadre presented on the Flexible Instructional (FID) Day Plan. This program is available to public school entities to be used as an alternate approach to delivering instruction if a circumstance arises that prevents instruction in a customary manner. Flexible Instruction Day program may be online, offline, or a combination of the two. FID programs can be used when circumstances prevent the delivery of instruction due to the following: epidemic, hazardous weather, law enforcement emergency, the inoperability of school busses or other equipment necessary to the LEA's operation, damage to a school building, or temporary circumstance rendering any portion of a school building unfit or unsafe for use.

An LEA must develop an FID program that meets the assurances outlined in the state application; the application must be approved by the school board, and then accepted by Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE).

Public school entities are expected to build make-up days into their local school calendars. If a public school entity is approved to implement an FID program, the number of FIDs instituted may not exceed five (5) days per school year.

If a public school entity submits an application, inclusive of all required documentation on or before June 15, 2020, the public school entity may implement the proposed FID program for an unlimited number of days through the end of the 2019-20 school year. The proposed FID program application will then receive a complete review by PDE to determine completeness and acceptance of the application for implementation in the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years. PDE will notify the public school entity as to whether its application meets the requirements no later than November 1, 2020.

C. Priority Standards Report Card – Dr. Dorie Martin-Pitone and Dr. Heather Logue

Dr. Pitone reported on the Priority Standards Report Card. She worked in collaboration with Dr. Logue and Dr. Chipeco on a priority standard report card for the elementary level to include progress in ELA and Math areas for the final trimester of 2019-2020 school year. This is in final revision stages and report cards will be forthcoming.

D. Career Pathways – Dr. Dorie Martin-Pitone, Mrs. Jacqueline Pino and Ms. Christy Brennan

Dr. Pitone introduced and thanked Mrs. Pino and Ms. Brennan, our secondary librarians, on their assistance with the career pathway websites. Mrs. Pino and Ms. Brennan

presented on the available links created and located under the library pages as an optional learning tool for students outlining career choices and pathways. In addition, they have provided a link to *Designing Your Own Pathway* which can be used by students who are unsure on which path they would like to follow. They encouraged feedback from students and parents and would be happy to assist in navigating these career links.

E. Policy 003 Functions of the Board – Dr. Constance Bompadre

Dr. Bompadre presented on the following motion to approve the review of policy 003 Functions of the Board and a motion to approve the first reading of a new policy 006.1 Meetings of the Board. Board policy 003, local board procedures for meetings, allows for the suspension of any procedural rule of the Board by majority vote. We are not recommending any changes to this policy. We wanted the board to review this policy as it relates to a new policy, 006.1 that we are recommending adding to our policy manual.

Once enacted, the provisions of Policy 006.1 Attendance at Meetings Via Electronic Communications regarding Emergency Circumstances contemplate that the “entire” Board participates remotely and, as written, authorizes the Board to forego the physical presence requirement without any Board approval of a change in Board procedure.

Under the current circumstances—which fit the definition of Emergency Circumstances under Policy 006.1—if our District had Policy 006.1 in place, there would be no need to “suspend” the physical presence requirement, since Policy 006.1 already provides for the full Board to participate remotely.

Once Policy 006.1 is in place, so long as emergency circumstances—as defined under Policy 006.1—are present, the Board is authorized to meet remotely. If circumstances change where “emergency circumstances” no longer exist, but for other reasons the Board does not want to meet in person, Policy 003 could still be used to authorize a remote meeting upon a majority vote by the Board to do so.

F. Policy 805 Emergency Preparedness – Mr. Barry Williams and Dr. Constance Bompadre

Dr. Bompadre and Mr. Williams presented a motion to approve the first reading of policy 805 Emergency Preparedness. The policy is comprehensive including emergency planning, drills, Safe2Say, trauma and professional development trainings on the Continuity of Education Plan. Administrative regulations do not need board approval; however, they outline what and how administrators carry out the policy. The following administrative regulations were already in place and presented by Mr. Williams including: Administrative Regulation (AR) - 0 Incident Command, AR-1 Drills and AR-2 Reporting Forms. Dr. Bompadre presented on the administrative regulations including AR-3, the new Continuity of Education Plan, and AR-4, the Flexible Instructional Day.

Mr. Bilker asked if Public Comment category could be added to the end of CIT agendas for future meetings.

VI. Motions

All motions will be moved along to the Board Meeting.

May 2020 CIT Motions

Instruction:

- A. Motion to approve the Flexible Instructional Day Plan as presented.**

Report Cards:

- B. Motion to approve the Priority Standards Report Card for elementary students for the final trimester of 2019-2020 school year.**

Policies:

- C. Motion to approve the review of policy 003 Functions of the Board as presented.**
- D. Motion to approve the first reading of a new policy 006.1 Meetings of the Board as presented.**
- E. Motion to approve the first reading of policy 805 Emergency Preparedness as presented.**
- F. Motion to approve the first reading of policy 201 Admission of Students as presented.**

MOU:

- G. To authorize the Superintendent to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between the Marple Township and the Newtown Township Police Departments and the Marple Newtown School District, as presented.**

Public Comment

A parent recommended that if the virtual Continuity of Education plan continues, it would be important for the district to ensure every student has a laptop. Mr. Bilker commented that this would need to be addressed with the budgetary board and that this is a challenging time and our district may have more upcoming challenges with the implications recently imposed on school districts. Dr. Kane commented that the only adjustment in the Continuity Plan that was brought to her attention was the shift in assignments from Monday to the prior Friday afternoon. She reported that all families were contacted about laptop distributions. The school district hosted four laptop pick-up sessions, and Mr. Williams also delivered a few laptops to households that

still did not have laptops. A parent applauded the district stating it went above and beyond to ensure laptop deliveries, as well as delivering a continuity of education plan in this crisis. The parent further commented there is a personal responsibility on families in assisting with the home education plan during this pandemic.

A parent questioned the plans for September and the return to school and how this will be managed? Dr. Kane commented that this is in the infancy stages as districts have not received guidance on reopening in the fall at this time. She assured parents that once the school district has a plan, it will be communicated with students and families. At this time, our district is exploring all options.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Vannicolo
Curriculum Secretary