

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, April 14, 2020
(Virtual Zoom Meeting opened to Public)

PRESENT:

Committee: Mr. Matthew Bilker

Board: Mr. Nick Reynolds, Mrs. Desiree Tomasco, Mr. Nicholas Siano, Mrs. Barbara Harvey, Mr. John McKenzie, Mr. Joseph Driscoll, Mr. Marc Sereni, Mrs. Tracy Alberti, Ms. Kathryn Chandless

Administration: Dr. Tina Kane, Dr. Constance Bompadre, Mr. Jake Gallagher, Mr. Chris Lee, Dr. Dorie Pitone, Mr. Jim Orwig, Dr. Heather Logue, Mr. Matthew Flood, Mr. Matthew Oberecker, Ms. Jaime Smyth, Mr. Jim Wigo, Mrs. Stephanie Sturdivant, Mr. Dennis Reardon, Dr. Thomas Gretchen, Mr. Dan Hyland, Ms. Chris White, Mr. John Beltrante, Mr. Don Tabar, Mrs. Christa Palladino, Dr. Andrea Chipego.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Bilker led the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 6:50 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 March 10, 2020 minutes were approved by the committee.

IV. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

V. Discussion/Informational Items

A. Academic Counseling at the MNHS – Ms. Tracy Jacobson, Mrs. Jen Cipollone, Mr. Shane Elison and Mrs. Christa Palladino

Ms. Jacobson, Mrs. Cipollone, Mr. Elison and Mrs. Palladino reported on the mission of the Marple Newtown High School College and Career Access Center which is to develop initiatives supporting career education and workforce development for students.

Initiatives presented included a STEM Academy within MNHS, an AP Capstone Diploma Program, AP Seminar & AP Research courses, Career and Technical Center in the High School, College in the High School, and an Advisory Council. The counselors provided a summary of the costs and needs for these programs. These initiatives provide career exploration options for students, targeted enrichment, career fairs, internships, as well as build on one another to optimize critical thinking skills, hands-on experiences, teamwork and problem-solving. These programs align with our district goals and the

Pennsylvania state competencies. The College and Career Access Center will work along with Administration and the Teaching and Learning Team to implement these initiatives.

B. Senior Graduation Requirements and Possible End-Of-Year Schedule - Mr. John Beltrante

Mr. Beltrante presented on the following senior graduation requirements and possible end-of-year schedule modifications: The Junior and Senior Prom dates are tentatively scheduled for 5/29/2020 and 6/19/2020 and Tiger Recognition night is scheduled for 6/3/20. These are tentative dates and decisions will be forthcoming depending on the medical crisis situation and whether businesses are open.

Mr. Beltrante anticipates the senior students will participate in the senior survey. He reported on the Senior Project and the difficulties students face with many businesses closed, business contact concerns and the unavailability of mentors in school buildings to meet with seniors. Mentors do not have the office hour availability since many teach multiple grade levels and are currently participating in the Continuity of Education Plan. Mr. Beltrante is proposing to waive the Senior Project for 2020, and this will change the student credit requirement from 26 to 25. In waiving the senior project, the current last senior day is 5/15/2020. He is proposing to extend the class time for seniors to 6/5/2020. Graduation is tentatively scheduled for 6/11/2020. Mr. Beltrante is working with Dr. Kane and his administrative team, looking at every opportunity and all options to hold graduation, as well as the possibility of rescheduling the date to later in the summer or fall. More information will be forthcoming as it becomes available.

C. Continuity of Education Plan – Dr. Constance Bompadre, Dr. Dorie Martin-Pitone, Mr. Matt Flood, Mr. Matt Oberecker and Mrs. Christy Brennan

Dr. Bompadre, Dr. Pitone, Mr. Flood, Mr. Oberecker and Ms. Brennan reported on the Continuity of Education Plan for the district. The Continuity of Education Plan was developed by the Teaching and Learning Team which also included Ms. Brennan, the librarian at Paxon Hollow, all building administrators, Dr. Kane, Dr. Logue, and Dr. Chipego. This team worked swiftly and collaboratively to create a virtual learning environment that would support students, parents and teachers.

The purpose of the Professional Development day on March 13th was intended for our schools to begin to develop a Continuity of Education plan then complete that plan on the scheduled in-service day of March 16th. At the time, the district did not know that schools would be abruptly shut down. When the governor closed all schools for the first 2 weeks, districts were asked to develop optional learning activities for students. “Optional” was the directive, because PDE understood that the development of and verification process for a Continuity of Education plan was a laborious task.

The MNSD Leadership team worked together to create, verify, and publish the plan so it could begin after the initial two week closure. For the successful implementation of the Continuity of Education plan, protocols were developed to guide staff when interacting with students in a virtual world. Twice a week, the Teaching and Learning team hosted daily “*Tech Tips@ 10 and 2*”. Mr. Oberecker shared how pleased he was in watching

teachers expand their instructional technology skills. Mr. Flood shared additional resources that teachers are utilizing to expand student interest and learning.

District staff contacted families identified with needs, including our English Language population in each of our schools. As a result of Dr. Kane's regular communications, additional families came forward with requests for technology. As a result of this process, the district coordinated three laptop distributions. If internet access was a concern, Comcast offered services and hot spots to families. A special thank you to Barry Williams and to Chris Lee and his team including all building level technology assistants for making laptops available to families and for their instructional technology guidance provided to staff.

Dr. Bompadre reported that in an effort to continue personal communication with families due to schools being closed for the remainder of the school year, principals and support staff are calling homes to check-in on students and their families. Dr. Kane continues to update and connect to families with global phone calls and emails. In addition, she thanked teachers who quickly adapted to this experience. Survey feedback from guardians and teachers were reviewed and minor changes will be made and communicated by the end of this week.

Dr. Pitone and the Teaching and Learning Team thanked teachers, administration, students and parents for their efforts and cooperation in this new Continuity of Education Plan. She reported the department is meeting with grade level teams to streamline the process, and said it was a blessing to see the district community come together for the students and families in this time of need and uncertainty.

D. Textbook Adoptions:

Computer Science – Mr. Matt Oberecker

Pre-AP Biology – Mr. Matt Oberecker

World Language – Mr. Matt Flood

Mr. Oberecker presented the textbook adoption proposal for the Python Computer Science Course, Coding, to be implemented at the high school. He also presented on the Pre-AP Biology textbook adoption proposal for 9th grade. The Pre-AP Biology textbook recommendation comes from College Board. Both courses will begin in the 2020-2021 school year.

Mr. Flood presented on the World Language textbook adoption proposal. He wanted to introduce this to the Board; however, this needs to be delayed to a future meeting. The review of the textbook was previously scheduled for review with a DCIU advisor and teachers on 3/16/2020 during the teacher in-service day that was cancelled due to school closure. This proposal will be forthcoming.

E. Field Trips and Conferences – Dr. Constance Bompadre:

The MNSD acknowledged that some payments may have been made by participants planning to attend a field trip or conference; the district will address this concern in the upcoming days. At this time, all events are cancelled too. The district is aware that there

are major life events impacted by this pandemic, such as prom and graduation. If restrictions are lifted before the end of the school year, the district will make every attempt to hold or reschedule these events.

VI. Motions:

All motions will be moved along to the Board Meeting.

April 2020 CIT Motions

Policies:

- A. Motion to approve the second reading of the following policies:
246 School Wellness
333 Professional Development
808 Food Services**
- B. Motion to withdrawal the first reading of Policy 805 Emergency Management; the policy must be updated to include plans for the continuity of student learning.**

Academic Counseling at MNHS:

- C. Motion to approve a school within a school, MNHS STEM Academy. First application process to occur with 8th grade in fall of 2020. First year of the STEM Academy to begin fall of 2021.**
- D. Motion to approve an AP Capstone Diploma for students who earn the academic distinction.**
- E. Motion to add two new Advanced Placement (AP) offerings at the high school. Those two courses are (1) AP Seminar and (2) AP Research.**

AP Seminar is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Students learn to investigate a problem or issue, analyze arguments, compare different perspectives, synthesize information from multiple sources, and work alone and in a group to communicate their ideas.

AP Research, the second course in the AP Capstone experience, allows students to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, issue, or idea of individual interest. Students design, plan, and implement a yearlong investigation to address a research question. Through this inquiry, they further the skills they acquired in the AP Seminar course by learning research methodology, employing ethical research practices, and accessing, analyzing, and synthesizing information. Students reflect on

their skill development, document their processes, and curate the artifacts of their scholarly work through a process and reflection portfolio. The course culminates in an academic paper of 4,000-5,000 words (accompanied by a performance, exhibit, or product where applicable) and a presentation with an oral defense.

- F. Motion to approve of a teacher from the Delaware County Technical High School to teach a course(s) at our high school instead of students traveling to the DCTS in Folcroft. The DCTS teacher has the capability to certify MN students with industry certifications for that coursework.
- G. Motion to approve the formation of an Advisory Council for the purpose of developing community partnerships with local businesses that will support career exploration in the form of job shadowing externships, internships, cooperative education, and apprenticeships. The council members will agree to a 2 year commitment as requested by the leadership of the council.

Continuity of Education Plan:

- H. Motion to approve the Continuity of Education Plan (COE) for the MNSD as presented. The COE is enacted when students must learn and staff must work from home.

Field Trips and Conferences:

- I. Motion to approve the cancellation of all trips and conferences. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all District field trips and conferences scheduled to be held from March 17, 2020 to July 31, 2020 are cancelled, including those which were previously approved by the Board of School Directors.

Textbook Adoptions:

- J. Motion to approve the adoption of the following textbooks, software and equipment:

Computer Science: Prosite Licenses, CodeHS (Replaces Edhesive)

CodeHS is a new resource available that will meet all of the needs of the computer science courses at the high school, especially with the inclusion of the newest elective for python coding. Code HS allows for the instructor more autonomy on the learning than the current resource allows.

Pre-AP Biology: Reece, Campbell, Biology Concepts & Connections 9e with Mastering Biology with Pearson eText, Pearson, 2018 copyright, ISBN: 9780134653402

Seniors:

- K. Motion to waive senior project for the 2019-2020 school and allow seniors to graduate with 25 credits instead of 26 credits.**
- L. Motion to extend seniors in class instruction from May 15, 2020 to June 5, 2020.**

Public Comment

A parent asked for clarification on Motion Policy “B” to withdraw the first reading of Policy 805 Emergency Management: the policy must be updated to include plans for the continuity of student learning. Dr. Bompadre clarified the reason to withdraw and rewrite the policy is to add the information on the Continuity of Student Learning Plan recently implemented.

A second parent commented that she was very impressed with the presentation on the Academic Counseling at the MNHS. She said there was a lot of great information and inquired how families can obtain this information. Dr. Bompadre reported that she will post this information to the Curriculum Department website.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Vannicolo
Curriculum Secretary