

**CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY
COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

**Administration Building
Board Room**

PRESENT: Committee: Mr. Leonard Altieri, Mr. Matthew Bilker

Board: Mr. Matthew DeNeucci, Mr. Nicholas Siano

Administration: Dr. Tina Kane, Dr. Constance Bompadre, Dr. Dorie Pitone, Mr. Christopher Oakes, Mr. Matthew Flood, Mr. Matthew Oberecker, Mrs. Stephanie Sturdivant, Mr. James Wigo, Ms. Jaime Smyth, Mr. Dennis Reardon, Dr. Thomas Gretchen, Mr. John Beltrante, Mr. Christopher Lee, Mr. Christopher Jaspersen

I. Call to Order

Mr. Altieri called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Altieri led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of Minutes

The October 2019 minutes were approved by the committee.

IV. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

V. Discussion/Informational Items

A. High School Courses/Course Selection Guide – Mr. Christian Jaspersen

Mr. Jaspersen presented on the High School's new course proposals and course changes which have been approved by the Board to include the following:

The English Department will add World Studies, a two credit course which collaborates English and Social Studies. This course will be offered as an alternative to World Civilization and Culture II and World Literature I. The course will include field trips, fundamentals of research and oral presentations. It will satisfy the graduation requirement for an English 10 course, as well as the World Cultures and Civilization II requirement.

The Business and Technology Department will offer a STEM Rocks course which provides the opportunity for students to build a full functioning guitar. The course will focus on computer programs, using cross-curricular tools encompassing science, technology and engineering standards. Principles of Engineering Project Lead The Way will replace the previously named Engineering and Innovative Design course. The course covers a broad range of engineering topics encompassing real world problem-solving while using collaborative skills. Introduction to Engineering Design Project Lead The Way will replace the previously named Engineering Fundamentals and will use math, science and engineering standards and applications.

The Mathematics Department will offer Introduction to Python Programming, an introductory course using graphical user-face applications. Students will learn JAVA, a fast-growing course which corresponds with the promotion of technology standards. Introduction to JAVA Programming replaces the previously named Introduction to Computers. This course is an introduction to JAVA programming, and it will be a prerequisite for the AP Computer Science A course.

The Science Department will offer Pre-AP Biology-H which holds an honors weight. This course is designed for ninth-grade students, and it will present a more rigorous offering with the opportunity to advance a student's career interest. Student will receive a sampling of expectations in a course that is more rigorous than an honors-level course.

The Visual and Performing Arts Department will offer a new course entitled Unified Drawing and Painting. This course will adopt similar language as presented in Bocci. Regular education students will work along with the life skill and autistic populations. The class will be taught by a special education teacher and a regular education teacher. AP Art and Design will also be offered and geared toward students who are gifted in the art field. This will mark our 26th AP course offering at the high school.

Mr. Jaspersen also presented on the removal of the Algebra I support class. There was a discussion on the rationale of removing this course. Students matriculate from Paxon having two hours per day in Algebra. After reviewing the data, it was determined that the students are not truly getting the value with the additional Algebra I and Algebra I support class experience at the high school. New 30-level classes will be put in place to better target lessons more diversely, and the teacher can differentiate and pinpoint each student's needs. This type of intensive-focused course has proven to produce higher scores. This class will include a co-teacher.

Mr. Jaspersen reported he met with the Culinary Arts teacher at the high school who has advised him that the current \$30.00 student fee can be reduced to \$25.00 and remain sufficient to pay for course materials.

B. Data Presentation – Dr. Dorie Pitone, the Teaching and Learning Team and Principals

Dr. Pitone, the Teaching and Learning Department and Principals presented on the PSSA and Keystone Data Report. The data shows the school district results from 2017-2019. There are three ways of viewing the data including Achievement, Growth and Pennsylvania Future Ready Index. Achievement data is obtained by eMetrics through the Data Recognition Corporation (DRC). Growth data is gathered through the Pennsylvania Value Added Assessment System (PVAAS). The growth data compares the students to themselves over time. Pennsylvania Future Ready Index (PAFRI) is a dashboard approach, and this data is available for public viewing. Dr. Pitone reported there is a slight discrepancy in the data, as it includes students registered in our district who attend approved outside instructional facilities.

Dr. Pitone presented on the ELA data. Districtwide, ELA data for achievement remains fairly consistent, and ELA grade level achievement data was above average. ELA Cohort data shows slight decrease in grades seven and eight, and this prompted instructional conversations. In ELA, our growth focus is on learning. The state focus is on growth. There were ELA audits over this past year which resulted in cohorts being implemented to focus on writing curriculum to state standards.

Mr. Oakes presented on the Math data. Districtwide, Math PSSA achievement has been a slow but steady increase over the past three years. He noted unlike ELA and Science, less than 50% of students in the state are performing at proficient or advanced levels in Math achievement. Grade-level data show fair increases with the exception of grades five and seven. Math Cohort Data for achievement shows a generally mixed bag between 2018 and 2019, with some decrease in all three years in grade seven. These target areas are being addressed.

Mr. Oberecker presented on Science data. Districtwide, science PSSA achievement shows nice gains, with achievement increases in grades four and eight. Although data growth by grade-level did not meet standard growth, 97% of our fourth-graders were proficient or advanced. Keystone Biology met the standard of growth.

Mr. Flood reported on the Districtwide Action Steps that our Teaching and Learning Team have been working on these past three years, providing professional learning initiatives and systems implemented based on the needs of our students. Our team will continue to create and strengthen structures and practices at the district and school-level related to curriculum, instruction and assessment by utilizing a problem-solving, data-based improvement cycle with a strong emphasis on collaboration and looking deeply at our curriculum and instructional practices. Curriculum underwent audits and curriculum writing cohorts were formed, working on writing curriculum to PA state standards. For instruction, our team will continue to ensure programs are being delivered with fidelity and that professional learning associated with tiered-interventions continue implementation using BDA lesson planning and Total Participation Techniques. For assessment, our team will continue to ensure that assessments are being delivered with fidelity and utilizing item analysis on both formative and summative assessments to make an impact on instruction and learning.

Building principals presented on their individual schools as follows:

Mr. Wigo presented on data on Culbertson. He is pleased with the overall school achievement. Math In Focus has been implemented and his second grade team of teachers are participating on a curriculum writing cohort and will bring action plans back to Culbertson. Learning Support teachers will review IEP goals and steps to better address them and review eMetrics and benchmark data to ensure growth for all students.

Ms. Smyth reported Loomis continues in an upward trend with their data. There has been a strong focus on the individual student's needs using Total Participation Techniques implemented by Dr. Gretchen in recent years. Her second grade team are working on additional guided reading and cohort. Book Club has increased student engagement, and she meets biweekly with grade level teams. Title I and RISE literacy interventions based on students' needs will be further addressed.

Mr. Reardon reported Russell's data had a slight drop in ELA and math. Math In Focus implementation last year was a large undertaking as teachers differentiated instructional needs of each student. Achievement has been positive. Grade two has added guided reading to complement the program in grade one. Classroom walkthroughs, gifted and Title I integration in the classrooms, meetings with teachers and targeted ELA meetings are additional resources Russell has implemented in this year's action steps.

Mrs. Sturdivant reported on the data at Worrall. There has been consistent and solid high scores and strong achievement in their data. Her grade three and five teams have joined a cohort and will pilot at Worrall. Tiger Time continues to pinpoint literacy in grades one and two. Her fourth-grade team will focus on guided reading working with reading specialists

embracing the students' needs. Teams meet once per month and will focus on the individual student to maximize growth.

Dr. Gretchen reported on the data at Paxon Hollow which has made some positive strides. Grade six math and grade eight science assessments are at their highest levels they have ever been, and Dr. Gretchen feels that this can be attributed to the new schedule implemented by Dr. Kane increasing the amount of instructional time in Math for grade six last year. Action plans including classroom walkthroughs with assistant principals, teaching and learning team and DCIU, as well as developing teachers' capacity for item analysis related to standards in math and alignment of ELA curriculum will be implemented. Dr. Gretchen meets with a professional learning community weekly focusing on engagement and response systems, growth mindset book study and professional development during faculty meetings.

Mr. Beltrante reported on Marple Newtown High School data which remains fairly consistent and commended his staff. Action plans include developing 30-level courses, co-teaching training, continuation of BDA lesson planning, formative assessments, freshman meetings and analyzing eMetrics for Keystone and PSSA to further guide instruction.

Mr. Altieri and Mr. Bilker commended the Administration on the detailed and informative data presentations. The Board was encouraged with the data presented and excited about the action plans in place. There was further discussion on PSSA testing, and Mr. Bilker commented on the importance of taking the pressure of testing off the students.

All motions presented below were approved and will be moved along to the full Board.

November 2019 CIT Motions

Administrative Trips:

- A. Motion to approve a correction to the cost of Mrs. Teri Werner's trip to ACAPA, already approved at the October Board Meeting. The motion should have read: The cost of the conference is \$285.00. The cost of lodging is \$275.00. The cost of transportation is \$58.00. The total cost to the district is \$618.00. (Originally the total cost was \$413.00).**
- B. Motion to approve Ms. Tracy Jacobson, Mrs. Jennifer Cipollone, and Mr. Shane Elison, Counselors, to attend the Pennsylvania Department of Education 2019 Standards Aligned System (SAS) Institute in Hershey, Pennsylvania on December 9-10, 2019. The information learned will be directly related back to the high school Career Pathways Course. The cost of the conference is \$100.00 per person. The cost of lodging is \$310.00 for 2 rooms. The cost of transportation is \$190.00. The total cost to the district is \$800.00.**
- C. Motion to approve Mr. Christopher Gicking, Athletic Director, to attend the Pennsylvania State Athletic Directors Association (PSADA) Conference in Hershey, Pennsylvania on March 24-27, 2020. The cost of the conference is \$450.00. The cost of lodging is \$600.00. The cost of transportation is \$115.00. The total cost to the district is \$1165.00.**

Club Trips:

- D. Motion to approve Dr. Douglas Killough, teacher to accompany the Model United Nations Club students to travel to the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, Pennsylvania on January 3-5, 2020. The cost of transportation is \$50.00 per student paid by the students. The cost of the activity including lodging and meals is \$360.00 per student paid by the students. There is no cost to the district.**

Student Trips:

- E. Motion to approve Mrs. Penny Gardner, teacher, to accompany her Photography/Digital Class to travel to the Camden Aquarium in Camden, New Jersey on January 3, 2020. The cost of transportation is \$15.00 per student paid by the students. The cost of the activity is \$12.00 per student paid by the students. There is no cost to the district.**
- F. Motion to approve Mrs. Michele Lunn and Mrs. Holly Dunleavy, teachers, to accompany the seventh grade class to travel to the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) in Dingmans Ferry, Pennsylvania on May 13-15, 2020. The cost of transportation is \$57.00 per student paid by the students. The cost of the activity including lodging and meals is \$213.00 per student paid by the students. There is no cost to the district.**
- G. Motion to approve Mr. Jordan Marmelstein, Mrs. Mary Anne Hrin, and Mr. Dan Peters, teachers, to accompany 320 students from the elementary schools and the middle school Music Departments to travel to Dorney Park in Allentown, Pennsylvania to perform in front of judges on May 29, 2020. The cost of transportation is \$30.00 per student paid by the students. The cost of the activity is \$47.00 per student paid by the students. There is no cost to the district.**

Technology:

- H. Motion to approve the LinkIt! Software License Agreement to purchase the LinkIt! software for data warehousing purposes in the amount of \$17,489.00 for the 2019-2020 school year.**

Clubs:

- I. Motion to approve the Created to Create Club at Paxon Hollow Middle School. The purpose of this club is to boost self-confidence and to be creative. The club advisor is Mrs. Terry Harper.**

Public Comment

There was a comment from a parent who attended visitation today at Loomis. Although she was very impressed and excited to see the teaching and learning techniques being used, she questioned the 27 students in the classroom and how can a teacher differentiate instruction for this amount of students. Mr. Oakes responded that every elementary school has implemented an IE period which targets students in need. Speaking from the Math In Focus standpoint, there is focus on collaborative techniques, allowing students to enter the process when they are ready. In addition, there are gifted support teachers coaching in the classroom. Dr. Pitone added ELA has a similar approach, modeling instructional techniques with formative

assessment. For example, a teacher would develop a reading assessment by scaffold depth based on the group of students. Mr. Altieri further commented that this group of students in this particular classroom, despite the size of the group, were the highest performing group in the county. Mr. Bilker questioned if Math is going to require more time of the day, is it reasonable to assume an opposite effect on other classes? Mr. Oakes commented it is too early to presume as MIF was piloted at Russell last year and currently being implemented at the other elementary schools. We are looking at how we best utilize our team and prioritize standards with students in the classroom. Penn Literacy Network will be coming in to assist us with this process in early Spring 2020.

There was some discussion on the school calendar for 2020-2021 and the possibility of scheduling Professional Development Days to include half days in built into the school calendar for the upcoming school year. This would allow the teachers to participate in Professional Development workshops. This will be further discussed with representatives from the teachers' union and the school board.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Vannicola
Curriculum Secretary