

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

Administration Building Board Room

PRESENT: **Committee:** Mr. Leonard Altieri, Mr. John McKenzie, Mr. Matthew Bilker

Board: Ms. Kathryn Chandless, Mr. Matthew DeNucci, Mr. Nick Reynolds, Mr. Matthew Catania

Administration: Mr. Joseph Driscoll, Dr. Constance Bompadre, Mr. Jim Orwig, Mr. Jake Gallagher, Dr. Dorie Pitone, Mr. Chris Oakes, Mr. John Beltrante, Mr. Christian Jaspersen, Mrs. Christa Palladino, Mr. Dennis Reardon, Mr. Michael Thomas

I. Call to Order

Mr. Altieri called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Approval of Minutes

The January 2019 minutes were approved by the committee.

IV. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented with the following exception:

D. On-line Registration for Kindergarten – Chris Lee

Mr. Altieri said that Mr. Chris Lee is not present this evening, so the On-line Registration item will be discussed at a future meeting.

V. Discussion/Informational Items

A. Alternative Instructional Methods Policy 124 Proposed Revision - Mrs. Christa Palladino

Mrs. Palladino reported that the College and Career Steering Committee is requesting the following revisions to the current Board policies related to college course offerings. She explained the differences in dual enrollment and dual credits. The current Board policy 124 offers alternative instructional methods available to seniors. The steering committee is requesting that this also be offered to rising juniors and seniors in good academic standing. The Marple Newtown School District Administration will determine the credits that will be applied towards high school graduation. Students are responsible for fees, transportation and materials.

The college course grades would not be factored into the student's GPA or class rank. Finally, the 6 units of classes would be further clarified as 6 courses.

Ms. Palladino explained this program encourages students to take evening and summer courses at the college level at a significant cost savings. With students currently choosing course selections for next year, it was requested to waive the second reading, so students can take advantage of this opportunity. This will present at the next full Board meeting for approval.

B. Mathematics Pilot with Teacher and Student Demonstration – Mr. Christopher Oakes and Mr. Dennis Reardon

Mr. Oakes presented on the Math in Focus which was piloted at Russell Elementary this year. There was a demonstration including teachers, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Mikhail and Principal, Dennis Reardon, and students to demonstrate the strategies of this program. Several teachers participating in this program reported that the focus of this learning is the “process versus the product”. Students and teachers are given more strategies to solve problems, teachers are becoming better teachers and report they see the value of this in their students learning experience. Although there have been some challenges along the way, it was reported that the students are excited and much more engaged, taking responsibility using the tools in the program to discover how to solve problems.

Mr. Oakes reported that this model has been proven successful with improving test scores over the years. Mr. Oakes and Mr. Reardon visited and worked with neighboring school districts which have had success with this program. It is a shift in curriculum sequencing from repetition to solving problems with strategies and focusing on learning the process versus the product, suggesting that mastery comes from variation not repetition. The district has budgeted for this program and will make a formal recommendation of the Math in Focus Program to the Board for adoption at the April Board meeting.

C. RISE Reading Program – Mrs. Meredith Marks, Mr. Dennis Reardon and Dr. Pitone

Mrs. Meredith Marks, Mr. Dennis Reardon and Mrs. Lizun reported on the RISE Reading Program which is a reading intervention pilot at Russell Elementary this year for students entering first grade who may require additional support in reading. Administration and Reading Specialists met to evaluate student data and determine needs of our students. This is an intensive program where students receive a full block of support in Reading and Language Arts. Mrs. Lizun explained the focus during this support block. With the support of extra personnel, this pilot has proven great success with tremendous growth in our students.

E. 2019-2020 Academic District Calendar – Dr. Constance Bompadre

Dr. Bompadre presented the 2019-2020 Academic District Calendar. The teacher flex day #1 will be earlier than prior years, scheduled in December of 2019.

F. How we use Data – Dr. Constance Bompadre and Mr. Christopher Oakes

Dr. Bompadre reported on how we use data in the district. She reported that Mr. Oakes presented the difference on the Keystone data compared to the data on our website at the January CIT meeting. The district values parental feedback and questions and we strive to communicate clearly what data we review, ways we review it and the purpose of gathering various data points. The powerpoint will be posted to our website.

VI. Motions:

There were no comments on agenda motions, and all motions have been moved along to the full Board.

February 2019 CIT Motions

Policy:

- A. Motion to approve the first reading and wave the second reading of the revision of Policy 124 Alternative Instruction Methods.**

Calendar:

- B. Motion to approve the 2019-2020 Marple Newtown School District Academic Calendar as presented.**

Administrative Trips:

- C. Motion to approve Mr. Christopher Oakes, supervisor, to attend the 2019 Pennsylvania STEM Ambassador Program in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on February 28 – March 1, 2019. The cost of the workshop is \$900.00. The cost of lodging is \$87.69. The cost of transportation is \$109.62. The total cost to the district is \$1,097.31.**
- D. Motion to approve Mr. Christopher Oakes, Supervisor, to attend the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) Data Summit in Hershey, Pennsylvania on March 24-26, 2019. The cost of the Workshop is \$350.00. The cost of lodging is \$304.14. The cost of transportation is \$95.58. The total cost to the district is \$749.72.**
- E. Motion approve Dr. Dorie Martin-Pitone, Director, to attend the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) Data Summit in Hershey, Pennsylvania on March 24-26, 2019. The cost of the Workshop is \$350.00. The cost of lodging is \$304.14. The cost of transportation is \$95.58. The total cost to the district is \$749.72.**

Student Trips:

- F. Motion to approve Dr. Douglas Killough, teacher, to accompany 90 high school students to travel to Arlington Cemetery, Washington, District of Columbia on April 17, 2019. The cost of the activity is \$6.00 per student paid by the students. The cost of transportation is \$40.00 per student paid by the students. There is no cost to the district.**
- G. Motion to approve Dr. TJ Gretchen, principal, and Mrs. Denise King to accompany grades 2 and 5 from Loomis Elementary School to travel to Adventure Aquarium in Camden, New Jersey on May 28, 2019. The cost of the activity and transportation is being paid by the PTO. There is no cost to the district.**
- H. Motion to approve Dr. TJ Gretchen, principal, and Mrs. Denise King, teacher, to accompany grades 1 and 4 from Loomis Elementary School to travel to Adventure Aquarium in Camden, New Jersey on May 29, 2019. The cost of the activity and transportation is being paid by the PTO. There is no cost to the district.**
- I. Motion to approve Mrs. Noelle Newton, counselor, to accompany grade 3 from Loomis Elementary School to travel to Adventure Aquarium in Camden, New Jersey on May 30, 2019. The cost of the activity and transportation is being paid by the PTO. There is no cost to the district.**
- J. Motion to approve Ms. Tracy Jacobson, counselor, Mr. Brian Isselmann, teacher, and Mr. Michael Winterbottom, teacher, to accompany 50 members of L.I.N.K. (Leadership Involved Networking for Kids) to travel to South Mountain YMCA in Reinholds, Pennsylvania on May 17-19, 2019. The cost of the activity is \$175.00 per student paid by the students. The cost of transportation is \$25.00 per student paid by the students. There is no cost to the district.**

Athletic Trips:

- K. Motion to approve Mr. Murray and Ms. Cessna, coaches, to accompany the high school Dive Boys Swim Team to travel to Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania for a PIAA Swimming and Diving State Championship on March 14-16, 2019. The cost for the activity is \$1,500.00. The cost of transportation is \$2,093.21. The total cost to the district is \$3,593.21.**
- L. Motion to approve Mr. William Haines, coach, to accompany the high school baseball team to travel to Wilson, North Carolina on**

March 22-24, 2019 to participate in a double header game. The cost of lodging is \$400.00 per student paid by the booster club and students. The cost of transportation is \$400.00 per student paid by the booster club and students. There is no cost to the district.

- M. Motion to approve Ms. Jill Gill and Ms. Laura Risley, teachers, to accompany the high school Bocce Team to travel to Hershey Park in Hershey, Pennsylvania for the PIAA Unified Indoor Bocce State Championships/Special Olympics on March 20-21, 2019. The cost of transportation is \$1,186.24. The total cost to the district is \$1,186.24.**

Music/Band:

- N. Motion to approve the various Marching Band, Jazz Band, Indoor Color Guard, and Indoor Drumline performances throughout the 2018-2019 school year as attached. There is no cost to the district.**

Club:

- O. Motion to approve the American Sign Language (ASL) Club at the high school. The purpose of this club is for the students to learn the basics of American Sign Language while also expanding their communication skills. The club advisor is Mrs. Mary Dolenti.**

Public Comment

Mr. Bilker reported that the Board was made aware of an issue involving some miscommunication regarding a Black and Orange Fund. He reported that Mr. Mike Larkin, Director of Communications for the school district, created a charitable 501C3 fund designated to benefit the Marple Newtown School District students. The funds were donated to the six PTOs in our district. There was misinformation printed in the newspaper that it was a Marple Newtown Fund but instead it is a private, charitable fund. There was discussion on the negative impact this situation has created on social media. This type of miscommunication can potentially run the risk of other entities not wishing to contribute to or work with our school district to benefit our students.

Mr. Altieri agreed to allow the public to make comments; however, he encouraged the public to attend the regular Board Meeting where questions may be addressed with our solicitor.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Vannicolo
Curriculum Secretary

