

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, October 17, 2017
GAUNTLETT CENTER BOARD ROOM

PRESENT: **Committee:** Mr. Leonard Altieri, Mr. Matt Bilker, Mrs. Barbara Harvey

Board: Ms. Kathy Chandless, Mr. A.J. Baker, Mr. Nick Reynolds

Administration: Dr. Carol Cary, Dr. Constance Bompadre, Mr. Chris Lee,
 Mr. TJ Gretchen., Mrs. Lauren Hopkins, Dr. Greg Puckett, Dr. Tina Kane,
 Dr. Richard Slonaker, Dr. Josephine Johnston, Mr. Dennis Reardon,
 Mr. James Wigo, Dr. Dorie Pitone, Mr. Matt Flood

I. Call to Order

Mr. Altieri called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Approval of Minutes

The September, 2017 minutes were approved by the committee.

IV. Approval of Agenda

The agenda, with an addendum, was approved by the committee.

V. Discussion/Informational Items

A. *Albert.io. – Mrs. Lauren Hopkins*

Albert is an interactive learning supplement designed to help students prepare for standardized testing such as AP Exams, SAT, ACT, and state assessments.

Mrs. Hopkins explained that MNHS was given the opportunity to pilot Albert io. during the month of May, 2017. All AP teachers were allowed full access to licenses for themselves and their students. Teacher and student feedback is included in the packet and was overwhelmingly positive. Mrs. Hopkins received permission to pilot NGSS, Next Generation Science Standards from September 7 through October 9, 2017 and ACT, SAT from September 25 through October 9, 2017. NGSS, ACT, SAT are part of the Differentiated Foundations Program. The Differentiated Foundations Program provides preparation for state exams aligned to the Common Core Standards.

The total cost for the 17/18 school is \$2,335.00. If the district wished to purchase the Differentiated Foundations program next year, it would cost an additional \$700.

Loomis & Worrall Title Recognition – *Dr. Dorie Martin – Pitone*

Dr. Pitone informed the committee that Loomis and Worrall elementary schools were chosen as Title I distinguished Schools by the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the 2017-2018 school year. Loomis Elementary earned the High Progress status for 2016-2017 and Worrall Elementary earned the High Achievement status for 2016-2017.

Title I programs are designed to help meet the state content and performance standards in reading, language arts, and mathematics.

The Division of Federal Programs will honor Loomis and Worrall elementary schools at the 2017 Title I Improving Schools' Performance Conference as a 2017-2018 Distinguished Title I School. All distinguished schools will be honored at the conference during the Distinguished Schools' Award Ceremony in Pittsburgh, PA.

B. Data Review – *Dr. Constance Bompadre, Curriculum Supervisors, and Principals*

Dr. Bompadre – spoke of a continuous improvement model which includes classroom observations, consistent use of data, learning from missed opportunities, and developing a Growth Mindset. We focus on strategies that have purpose: data conversations, lesson planning, use of Study Island and ILS (Individual Learning Solution) and Differentiated Instruction. Sustainability is important and we can do it through walk-throughs (knowing what highly effective classrooms look like) and accountability, which includes documentation, evidence, and feedback.

Curriculum Supervisors

Dr. Dorie Pitone - ELA – worked with John Beltrante, who reached out early last year regarding TDA data – Text Dependent Analysis. Dr. Pitone worked with teachers to actively monitor and observe the qualitative data to inform instruction. TDA writing shows depth of understanding of the previous passages read. This transfers to the middle and high school to Document Based Questions. The expectation being that we consistently model and teach the process associated with this type of writing.

Mr. Matt Flood - Humanities – areas of focus. Elementary – increasing exposure to nonfiction text. Principals have provided all students in each building with Scholastic News magazines. This will help strengthen students understanding and build background knowledge to develop writing skills.

Middle School – increased focus for all students examining Text Dependent Analysis questions with Social Studies instruction. Also, there will be an increase in argumentative writing and collaborating with ELA teachers.

High School – Social Studies Dept. will continue with Dr. Puckett’s writing initiative, reviewing student classroom CDT (Classroom Diagnostic Tools) assessment data in ELA. Document Based Analysis Question and Argumentative writing are two other areas of focus.

Dr. Richard Slonaker – Mathematics/HPE – use data to inform our instruction. Data should be used before instruction begins so that a student can be pre-assessed (grades 3-5). Dr. Slonaker stated that we need more writing in Math by using open-ended responses (grades 3-8). At the middle/high school level, educators should expect more from their students – there is always room for improvement.

Dr. Josephine Johnston – Science/Business and Technology Education – the area of focus is the nature of science. Process skills are 50% of the PSSA test. Students are learning how to think and behave like scientists. The shift in science is moving from content to process. Elementary teachers are not trained scientists. Dr. Josephine Johnston has developed lesson plan guides for teachers so that they can implement lessons.

At the middle school level, students are using Gizmos, an online lab simulation. Students will have more data to analyze.

The high school is looking at the formal lab process, not just for Biology, which is the tested science. Again, it is more process based with more weight on conclusion and analysis.

Mr. James Wigo, Principal – Culbertson – will focus on Geometric Measurement, understanding concepts of area and relate area to multiplication and to addition to improve scores in 3rd grade. For 4th grade, Mr. Wigo will focus on problem solving involving measurements and the conversion of measurements from a larger unit to a smaller unit.

The process for implementation will include the use of Emetric website to target the weaknesses by anchor, data meetings with teachers/administrators to review district benchmarks and topic test. There will also be teacher-student conferences to allow the student to know where they are currently and where they are going. Mr. Wigo will also use the Standards Aligned System, which aligns the standards with our district curriculum. ILS testing (Individualized Learning Solutions) will be given 3 times per year to continue to monitor the Exact Pat lessons that are available to students.

Mr. TJ Gretchen, Principal – Loomis – is focusing on increasing the percentage of students who have a non-gifted IEP to be proficient on the math portion of the PSSA. With the exception of third grade students, Loomis provides special education students receiving math instruction with a small group setting. In third grade, students are not pulled out unless there is a severe need. They receive direct instruction from regular education teachers and a special education teacher. This is a collaborative approach combining main stream education with special education components in an inclusive classroom setting.

When moving to independent work, small groups of about 3-6 students are created by the teachers, depending on the student’s instructional level. Two groups are taught by the teachers,

based on common goals that are a part of a personalized math curriculum so that the needs of all children are met. This model is known as a co-taught model.

This arrangement provides students with the opportunity to remain in the general education setting, provides students with the least restrictive environment, all while ensuring they receive the instructional support from a special education teacher.

Mr. Dennis Reardon, Principal – Russell – will improve the performance on open ended assessments by using the PSSA rubric as an instructional tool to help students grow.

Differentiated Instruction is being emphasized in grades 3-5. Pre-tests are being used to group students prior to each topic. ILS (Individualized Learning Solutions) will be used to provide targeted instruction to each child at their respective level.

Two extra math sessions have been created where teachers can use ILS, spend time reviewing test taking strategies with students, review open ended answers relating to the PSSA Rubric and provide students opportunities to work in centers on activities at their respective levels.

Mr. John Beltrante, Principal – Worrall – will focus on TDA (Text Dependent Analysis) in ELA (English Language Arts) and open-ended questions in math. Students will be required to go back into a text and cite evidence to support an answer. They will need to explain how they arrived at an answer.

To achieve this goal, Dr. Slonaker and Dr. Pitone will work with teachers on open-ended and TDA strategies and examples for the teachers to use during PSSA co-teaching and regular ELA and Math times. There will be professional development during in-service and faculty meetings to reinforce process for unpacking TDAs, and build upon what has already been put into place. Additional resources will be provided for practice. Sample PSSA questions will be incorporated directly into lessons. Data will be shared with staff at the in-service in August. Study Island will be used as an additional resource to provide academic support through practice, immediate feedback and built-in remediation to improve students' performance in core skill areas.

Dr. Tina Kane, Principal – Paxon Hollow Middle School – in an effort to increase scores, Dr. Kane will increase professional development time by designating monthly department curriculum meetings with the Curriculum Supervisors. Faculty meetings are now reorganized to represent department curriculum meetings with Curriculum Supervisors. The entire year has been planned and outlined. She would also like to arrange for a Math in Focus trainer to plan and teach two math classes.

Dr. Kane will also implement the use of Study Island to replace the Classroom Diagnostic Tool assessments in PSSA tested classes and keep the CDT in Keystone tested classes.

Dr. Greg Puckett, Principal – High School – after breaking down last year's test results, the high school was pleased to learn that on average, 90% or more students who are identified as regular education students (non-IEP and non-HUP) scored proficient or advanced on the three

Keystone exams. However, only 50% of special education students scored proficient or advanced on the three Keystone exams. This year the high school is working to improve proficiency scores for special education students. A 2 year Algebra course was created for students who have an identified math goal in his/her IEP. This small group of students will learn Algebra I over two years and take the exam at the end of the second year.

Miscellaneous Discussion

Dr. Puckett responded to questions about Keystone exams from parents.

Dr. Slonaker responded to questions regarding SPP, Student Performance Profile and how the target is formed, what our goals are and what happens when the target is not met.

Mr. Jeff White, a 1964 Marple Newtown graduate asked if Civics is taught. Mr. Matt Flood, curriculum supervisor for Humanities, said that Civics is embedded in the K-12 social studies program.

The following motions have been moved along to the full Board.

Agreement:

- A. Motion to approve the Neumann University Facility Temporary Licensing Agreement with Marple Newtown School District for the High School Commencement on June 15, 2018 for \$9,745.00.**

Software Program:

- B. Motion to approve the purchase of Albert.io for Advanced Placement students and the College Entrance add-on package for the high school at a cost of \$2335.00.**

Policies:

- C. Motion to approve the second reading of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy 918.**
- D. Motion to waive the first reading and approve the Tobacco Use/Vaping Policy 222 as presented.**

Donation:

- E. Motion to approve the donation of dictionaries from the Broomall Rotary to our third grade students in the four elementary schools**

Teacher Conferences:

- F. Motion to approve Mrs. Carolyn Firkser-Campbell, teacher, to attend the College Board AP Spanish Language and Culture Workshop at Robbinsville High School in Robbinsville, New Jersey on November 10, 2017. The cost of the conference is \$190.00. The total cost to the district is \$190.00.**
- G. Motion to approve Mr. Jeff Kuciapinski, teacher, to attend the Pennsylvania Association for Supervision & Curriculum Development Conference (PASCDC), on November 11-13, 2017 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. PASCDC will cover the cost for the conference registration. The cost for transportation is \$42.93. The total cost to the district is \$42.93.**

Curricular Trips:

- H. Motion to approve Mr. Arch Hunter, teacher to accompany forty-five High School Social Studies students to travel to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania on December 1, 2017. The cost for transportation is \$45.00 per student. The cost for the activity is \$20.00 per student. There is no cost to the district.**
- I. Motion to approve Dr. Douglas Killough, teacher, to accompany forty-eight High School Social Studies students to travel to the United Nations in New York on December 8, 2017. The cost for transportation is \$25.00 per student. The cost for the activity is \$45.00 per student. There is no cost to the district.**
- J. Motion to approve Mrs. Penny Gardner, teacher, to accompany sixteen High School Photography students to travel to the Camden Aquarium in Camden, New Jersey on December 8, 2017. The cost for transportation is \$18.00 per student. The cost for the activity is \$12.00 per student. There is no cost to the district.**

Club Trips:

- K. Motion to approve Mr. Michael Snow, teacher, to accompany the High School Ski and Outdoor Club students to travel to Skirmish USA in Albrightsville, Pennsylvania on December 9, 2017 for a Paintball trip. The cost for transportation is \$18.00 per student. The cost for the activity is \$85.00 per student. There is no cost to the district.**
- L. Motion to approve Mr. Michael Snow, teacher, to accompany the High School Ski and Outdoor Club students to travel to Camelback Mountain in Tannersville, Pennsylvania on December 16, 2017 for a Ski and Snowboard trip. The cost for transportation is \$25.00 per**

student. The cost for the activity is \$50.00 per student. There is no cost to the district.

- M. Motion to approve Mr. Michael Snow, teacher, to accompany the High School Ski and Outdoor Club students to travel to Bear Creek in Macungie, Pennsylvania on February 15, 2018 for a Ski and Snowboard trip. The cost for transportation is \$25.00 per student. The cost for the activity is \$50.00 per student. There is no cost to the district.**
- N. Motion to approve Mrs. Jen Cipollone; Ms. Tracy Jacobson, counselors, and Mr. Brian Isselmann, teacher, to accompany the High School Renaissance Club students to travel to Morey's Pier in Wildwood, New Jersey on May 30, 2018 for a Renaissance Recognition Event. The cost for transportation is \$30.00 per student. The cost for the activity is \$30.00 per student. There is no cost to the district.**

Athletic Trips:

- O. Motion to approve Ms. Kimberly Foster, cheerleading coach, to accompany 16 Marple Newtown High School Cheerleaders to travel to Kutztown University in Kutztown, Pennsylvania on December 10, 2017. The student cheerleaders will be competing in Regionals to qualify for Nationals. The cost for transportation is \$393.00. The cost for registration is \$420.00. The total cost to the district is \$813.00**
- P. Motion to approve Mr. Steve Resnick, coach, to accompany the High School Wrestling Team to travel to Hamilton North High School in Trenton, New Jersey on December 16, 2017 to compete in the Nottingham Invitational Wrestling Tournament. The cost for transportation is \$440.96. The cost for the activity is \$400.00. The total cost to the district for transportation and activity is \$840.96.**
- Q. Motion to approve Mr. Steve Resnick, coach, to accompany the High School Wrestling Team to travel to Chambersburg High School in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania on December 29-30, 2017 to compete in the Trojan Wars Wrestling Tournament. The cost for transportation is \$1050.85. The cost for the activity is \$400.00. The cost for the hotel is \$50.00 per student paid by the students. The total cost to the district for transportation and activity is \$1450.85.**

- R. Motion to approve Mr. Steve Resnick, coach, to accompany the High School Wrestling Team to travel to Dallastown Area High School in Dallastown, Pennsylvania on January 13, 2018 to compete in the Dallastown Duals Varsity Competition. The cost for transportation is \$495.41. The cost for the activity is \$250.00. The total cost to the district for transportation and activity is \$745.41.**

Music Trips:

- S. Motion to approve Mr. Jake Olimpki, teacher, to accompany the High School Orchestra to travel to Hershey Park in Hershey, Pennsylvania on May 12, 2018 for year-end assessments. The cost for transportation is \$54.00 per student. The cost for the activity is \$82.00 per student. There is no cost to the district.**
- T. Motion to approve Mr. Jordan Marmelstein and Mrs. Mary Anne Hrin, teachers, to accompany the Paxon Hollow Middle School Music Department to travel to Dorney Park in Allentown, Pennsylvania on June 1, 2018 to perform concert music in an adjudication setting. The cost for transportation is \$30.00 per student. The cost for the activity is \$45.00 per student. There is no cost to the district.**

Clubs:

- U. Motion to approve the Cheerleading Club at Paxon Hollow Middle School. The purpose of this club is to introduce cheerleading at the middle school. Members will receive training in proper technique, learn material, and be prepared for future tryouts at Marple Newtown High School. The club advisors are Ms. Kimberly Foster and Ms. Sam Tristan.**
- V. Motion to approve the Gardening Club at Marple Newtown High School. The purpose of the club is to provide enrichment opportunities for students relating to gardening and to learn about the concept of farm to table. The club advisor is Mrs. Christine Miehle.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn M. Paine