

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, February 18, 2014
GAUNTLETT CENTER BOARD ROOM

PRESENT: **Committee:** Mrs. Sherry Lee McCauliffe, Mrs. Barbara Harvey, Mrs. Nancy Galbraith (by phone), Mr. Leonard Altieri

Board: Ms. Kathryn Chandless, Mr. A.J. Baker, Mr. Matthew DeNucci

Administration: Dr. Constance Bompadre, Dr. Merle Horowitz,
Dr. Toni Himes, Mr. Christopher Lee, Dr. Lara Munch

I. Call to Order

Mrs. McCauliffe called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. McCauliffe led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of Minutes

The November 19, 2013 minutes will be approved at the March 18, 2014 meeting

IV. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by the committee.

V. Discussion/Informational Items

A. Proposal for PHMS Foreign Lang. Course Credit for MNHS – Dr. Lara Munch

Dr. Lara Munch, Foreign Language Coordinator, presented the committee with a proposal. In order to receive MNHS credit for a course at PHMS and to advance to the next level course, a student must have an average above 75% for the year. This guideline would apply to both Spanish and French courses. The rationale is due to the cumulative nature of world language courses. Students at the middle school level must demonstrate proficiency in a designated course to both receive high school credit, as well as to advance to the next level course in the progression. The committee was in favor of this change.

B. Elementary Language Arts Textbooks Adoption – Dr. Toni Himes

Dr. Toni Himes, Language Arts/Reading Supervisor, shared a powerpoint with the committee regarding the selection process of the K-5 Language Arts Program. Reading Wonders, a McGraw Hill publication was selected by the elementary review committee. Two other publishers, Houghton/Harcourt and Pearson, also presented their elementary language arts program. The

committee had 4 (1/2 day) meetings and did a thorough review of the components in this program. They thought the level of questioning was excellent and the program has lots of text. The technology “dashboard” is user friendly. Teachers like the fact that everything is across the top of the screen. Teachers and students can access the Reading Wonders technology from home. Dr. Himes would like to start the professional development this semester. Dr. Himes and Dr. Bompadre would like to have a motion to adopt the program now and then later, request to purchase the program as part of the final budget process.

C. Educator Evaluation Guide – *Dr. Connie Bompadre*

Dr. Bompadre told the committee that the entire faculty was provided with the Education Evaluation Guide.

D. Policy on Evaluation of Employees – *Dr. Connie Bompadre*

Dr. Bompadre asked the committee if a motion could be made for a first reading of the Evaluation of Employees. The policy has been updated due to the change in how teachers are evaluated. All the details are outlined in the Educator Evaluation Guide.

E. District Technology Committee – *Dr. Connie Bompadre and Mr. Chris Lee*

Dr. Bompadre and Mr. Lee told the committee that the MNSD Technology Committee has been selected. Dr. Steve Subers will chair the committee. The first meeting was postponed due to inclement weather.

The committee will discuss how to better use technology for instructional purposes and also review resources and make recommendations. The committee will also evaluate tools to best meet those instructional purposes.

F. Calendar – Make-up Days for Students/Closings due to Weather – *Dr. Connie Bompadre*

Dr. Bompadre presented the committee with several options for make-up days. Two days could be added on at the end of the year, Thursday, June 19 and Friday, June 20. (K – 11) If more snow is to come, students could be brought in on May 23rd (Flex Day). The Flex Day would be rolled over to be used as Flex Day #1 in the next year’s calendar. (K-11) Students could be brought in on spring break, April 14, 15, and 16 (Monday – Wednesday) (K-12). There was a great deal of discussion among committee members and parents in the audience about the make-up options.

There was also discussion with the Department of Education about converting August in-service days into Act 80 days. No final decision has been communicated with districts at this time. There will be further discussion regarding this matter at the full Board Meeting.

G. School Board Tablets – *Mr. Chris Lee*

The purchase of tablets for the School Board at a cost of \$4,899.06 was presented. As a cost saving measure, tablets could be used for Board documents, email and other confidential information in place of Board packets.

A committee member did ask if Mr. Driscoll could provide information on the approximate amount that the District would save by purchasing the tablets.

When asked about students getting tablets, a committee member told the audience that the Technology Committee will be reviewing that, as well as other items and resources for which they will make recommendations.

H. District Wireless – *Mr. Chris Lee*

Mr. Lee told the committee that the District has outgrown the wireless system. During December, he was able to rework some problems. He would like to add access points to every building. The cost of the new wireless system is \$133,860.00.

I. Human Resources/Business Department Software – *Mr. Chris Lee*

Mr. Lee requests the purchase of Prosoft HR/Payroll System modules at a cost of \$27,994. The module package will help streamline a process that is now manual.

Miscellaneous Discussion:

Members of the Marple Newtown High School Football Team spoke to the committee in support of their coach, Mr. Ray Gionta.

VI. Motions

- A. Motion to approve a partnership with St. Joseph's University regarding student teacher practicum and field experience.
- B. Motion to approve Mr. Christian Jaspersen, teacher, to attend the PA State Athletic Directors conference in Hershey, PA on March 19, 2014. The cost of the conference is \$250.00. The total cost to the district is \$250.00
- C. Motion to approve Mr. Dennis Reardon, MNHS Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, to attend the PA State Athletic Directors conference in Hershey, PA on March 18-21, 2014. The cost of the conference is \$225.00 and meals, lodging, gas & tolls cost will be \$450.00. The total cost to the district is \$675.00.
- D. Motion to approve Mr. Mike Clancy, teacher, to attend the Pre-calculus Conference at Rutgers University in Piscataway, NJ on March 21, 2014. The cost of the conference is \$165.00. The total cost to the district is \$165.00.

- E. Motion to approve Ms. Anita Stum to accompany the High School FBLA Club members to attend the FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) Conference in Hershey, PA on April 7-9, 2014. The total cost per pupil for room, registration fee and meals is \$202.00. The total cost to the district will be for car rental and this \$180.00.
- F. Motion to approve Dr. Mary Bollinger, teacher and Mrs. Kerri Confora, teacher to accompany 16 students from the MNHS French class to travel to Lillebonne & Paris, France on April 6-19, 2014. The cost of the conference is \$325.00. The cost of the hotels is \$410.00. The total cost to the district is \$735.00.
- G. Motion to approve Dr. Tina Sweeley, Assistant Principal, to attend the 2014 Women's Caucus Conference in Hershey, PA on May 4-6, 2014. The total cost per pupil is \$140.00. There is no cost to the district.
- H. Motion to approve Mr. Chris Vogel, teacher to accompany 40 MNHS music students to travel to New York on May 28, 2014. The total cost per pupil is \$140.00. There is no cost to the district.
- I. Motion to approve the MNHS Philosophy Club. The purpose of this club is to present intellectually challenging concepts to students and give them the opportunity to explore these concepts with their fellow students. The club advisor is Ms. Jimenez.
- J. To approve the purchase of nine tablets for the Marple Newtown School District School Board in the amount of \$4,899.06.**
- K. To approve the transfer of funds from Budgetary Reserve and purchase of wireless equipment for the district's wireless network in the amount of \$133,860.00.**
- L. To approve the purchase of the Human Resources Employee and Time Management modules for our Financial Information System in the amount of \$27,994.00.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn M. Paine