

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, August 4, 2020
(Virtual Zoom Meeting opened to Public)

PRESENT:

Committee: Mr. Nicholas Siano

Board:

Mr. Matthew Bilker, Mrs. Desiree Tomasco, Mrs. Barbara Harvey, Mrs. Tracy Alberti, Ms. Kathryn Chandless, Mr. Dave Dezzi, Mr. John P. McKenzie, Mr. Nick Reynolds, Mr. Joseph Driscoll, Mr. Marc Sereni.

Administration:

Dr. Tina Kane, Dr. Constance Bompadre, Mr. Jake Gallagher, Dr. Dorie Pitone, Mr. Jim Orwig, Dr. Heather Logue, Mr. Matthew Flood, Mr. Matthew Oberecker, Mr. John Beltrante, Mr. Chris Lee, Mrs. Stephanie Sturdivant, Dr. Thomas Gretchen, Mr. Dennis Reardon, Mr. Mark Dodds, Mr. Barry Williams, Mrs. Christa Palladino, Mr. Christian Jaspersen, Mr. Dan Hyland, Mr. Don Tabar, Mrs. Jaime Smyth, Mr. Jim Wigo, Mr. Chris Gicking, Ms. Chris White.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Siano called the meeting to order at 6:47 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 June 9, 2020 minutes were approved by the committee.

IV. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with the addendum motion for the Sports Medicine Agreement to approve the Sports Medicine Agreement between the Marple Newtown School District and Beatty Harris Sports Medicine, LLC effective on August 1, 2020.

V. Discussion/Informational Items

Dr. Kane reported that two physicians have joined our meeting this evening to help alleviate health and safety concerns regarding Covid 19. Dr. P.J. Brennan is the chief medical officer and senior vice president of the University of Pennsylvania Health Systems. He is board certified in Infectious Diseases and Internal Medicine. He reported that in June 2020 there was optimism with lower number of covid cases. There has been an increase in Delaware County in this past week. In his opinion, bringing students and teachers back to school presents more opportunities to spread the virus. The holidays of July 4th and Labor Day present concern for further chance of increased spread of the virus. Pennsylvania has been a more conservative state with adhering to

restrictions such as masking, which may have contributed to Pennsylvania's lower number of cases. He reported that with the given uncertainties, schools should consider caution in opening in a hybrid model until there is a better understanding of where cases stand. Pushing back on-campus learning for one month would be advisable.

Dr. David Rubin, the Director of Policy Lab at Childrens Hospital, also joined the meeting to address concerns on the virus. He agrees with Dr. Brennan that returning under the hybrid model presents a likelihood of spreading the illness. He reported that an underestimating testing rate, along with higher positivity rates, increase the transmission rate. He feels cases are beginning to stabilize at this time, but it is impossible to predict the status closer to Labor Day. Ideal standards would include 14 days of declining numbers. He reported that states including Pennsylvania, enforcing masking are declining in cases. He does not recommend contact sports at this time, although individual training is recommended.

Board Member, Desiree Tomasco, questioned the psychological impact on bringing students back only to return to the virtual format a few weeks later. Dr. Rubin feels this would be disruptive.

A. Reopening of School and Parent Survey Results – Dr. Tina Kane and Dr. Constance Bompadre

Dr. Kane and Dr. Bompadre presented on the Reopening of School and Parent Survey Results. The district has developed a Health and Safety Plan for submission to Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). The extensive work of this Planning Committee, as well as feedback provided by teachers, parents and medical experts helped the district to select two models for safe reopening of schools which include a hybrid model where student cohort groups attend in-person school on specified days of the week. A second plan included a 100% virtual model that includes both synchronous, live in-person, and asynchronous, a self-paced, learning. In addition, the district will offer its own cyber school called MN ConnectEd. This is a separate option from the virtual learning that will occur under the hybrid model. This will be staffed with MNSD teachers who will be teaching our curriculum. Marple Newtown School District has implemented the one-to-one laptop initiative for all students in K-12 and is committed to address learning and curricular concerns. Teachers and administrators met in focus groups to develop priority standards that would help remediate educational gaps and compact the curriculum, including purchasing additional curricular supplements with diagnostic and interventional capacity.

These plan options will be presented to the Board for approval this evening.

Mr. Wigo, Ms. Smyth, Dr. Gretchen and Mr. Beltrante presented outlines of the anticipated typical school day format at the elementary and secondary levels adhering to the required guidelines under the hybrid and virtual models.

Dr. Bompadre presented on the school calendar changes based on the hybrid and virtual options. Mr. Gallagher presented on the updated safety protocols in place to meet safety standards required.

B. MN ConnectEd Cyber School – Dr. Tina Kane and Mr. Matthew Oberecker
Dr. Kane and Mr. Oberecker reported on the MN ConnectEd Cyber School to be implemented this fall as an option for students. This option would be available for students who do not wish to participate in the hybrid option or the virtual option. There will be a virtual open house tomorrow evening, August 5, 2020, presenting the MN ConnectEd Cyber School. Additional information will be available on our district website.

C. IXL – Mr. Matthew Oberecker
Mr. Oberecker presented on IXL, a supplemental curriculum resource purchased by the district. This is a comprehensive K-12 curriculum resource which provides standards-based content to support most lessons and individualized guidance with skill recommendations to help fill in the knowledge gaps. This software includes real-time diagnostics including accurate, ongoing data without administering tests and actionable analytics which targets trouble spots and will focus on reteaching areas.

VI. Motions

All motions will be moved along to the Board Meeting.

August 2020 CIT Motions

Policies:

A. Motion to approve the second reading of policy 124 Alternative Instruction Methods as presented.

Health and Safety Plan:

B. Motion to approve the MNSD Health and Safety Plan as presented for submission to PDE (Pennsylvania Department of Education).

Reopening of School:

C. Motion to approve the Hybrid Reopening Group A Group B Schedule for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. This blended reopening balances in-person learning and remote/virtual learning for all students.

MN ConnectEd Cyber School:

D. Motion to approve the creation of MN ConnectEd Cyber School

IXL:

E. Motion to approve the purchase of IXL, an online curriculum that is fully aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards, for a one year license at a cost of \$77,628.00. IXL is a digital leader in personalized learning. Teachers can utilize IXL for supplemental content to help their students master any standard or lesson. Its features include a comprehensive K-12 curriculum, individualized guidance, and a real-time diagnostic, and actionable analytics.

Emergency Instructional Time:

F. Motion to approve the Emergency Instructional Time Template

as presented for submission to PDE (Pennsylvania Department of Education).

Field Trips and Conferences:

G. Motion to approve that no trips or conferences will be approved through January 29, 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If and when all restrictions are lifted in regards to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the district will reassess sending students on trips or staff to conferences.

Public Comment

Mr. Bilker requested that public comments be followed by virtual hand-raising. He requested that the public kindly limit individual questions and comments to three minutes due to the amount of meeting attendees. The district would like to address as many questions as possible.

There were many questions addressed this evening including: extensive comparison of all three option plans, target dates to notify parents who require day care facilities, choosing a model plan for their child, substitute teachers, cyber orientation for middle school, breakdown of a typical day, physical education requirements, lunchroom rotations, arrival and dismissal procedures, cleaning and safety precautions, mask requirements, lockers, curriculum, IEPs, GIEPs, sports and extracurricular activities. Mr. Bilker also encouraged parents to reach out to Administrators and Building Principals should they have further questions.

Meeting adjourned at 11:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Vannicolo
Curriculum Secretary