

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, June 9, 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.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Siano called the meeting to order at 7:42 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 May 12, 2020 minutes were approved by the committee.

IV. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved with the addendum to the agenda on the 1:1 Initiative.

V. Discussion/Informational Items

A. Keystone Exams – Dr. Constance Bompadre

Dr. Bompadre reported on the Keystone Exams and Graduation Requirements as follows: On March 27, 2020, the U.S. Department of Education approved Pennsylvania's request to waive federal assessment requirements for the 2019-20 school year.

The waiver's coverage of assessment requirements applies to the cohort of 2019-20 test takers who were scheduled to take one or more Keystone Exams in the spring of 2020. Therefore, the Federal government is not requiring any student enrolled in a Keystone Exam trigger course (Algebra I, Biology, English Literature) during the spring of the 2019-20 school year, regardless of their current grade level or expected graduation date, to take the associated Keystone Exam(s) once schools reopen.

MN will not require the students to make up Keystone Exams in the Fall for the Spring group that could not take the test. No student may be denied the opportunity to take the

test if a student wants to take it. The high school will schedule keystone testing during the fall/winter administration of the exams for those who chose to make it up.

Students who took the Keystone exam, this past Fall or Winter of 2019, may have their performance data used for local purposes.

Next Fall's Future Ready Index will not report partial results; it will use the 2018-2019 data.

Students enrolled in a Keystone Exam trigger course for the 2020-21 school year will be required to take an end-of-course Keystone Exam in the Winter, Spring, or Summer windows of the 2020-21 school year. This 2020-21 cohort's data, including participation data, will factor into federal accountability and state reporting, graduation, and other local policy decisions. Senate Bill 1095, which was signed into law by Governor Tom Wolf on October 24, 2018, shifts Pennsylvania's reliance on high stakes testing as a graduation requirement to provide alternatives for high school students to demonstrate readiness for postsecondary success. Formerly, Pennsylvania's graduation requirement was more restrictive, requiring most students to pass the Keystone Exams — end of course exams in Algebra I, Literature, and Biology. Senate Bill 1095 will expand the options for students to demonstrate postsecondary readiness using four additional pathways that more fully illustrate college, career, and community readiness. The pathways which are (1) Keystone Proficiency, (2) Keystone Composite, (3) Career and Technical, (4) Alternative Assessment, and (5) Evidence Based are clearly outlined on a document provided to us by the DCIU. We will post that document to our website. The statewide graduation requirement takes effect for the graduating class of 2022.

There are no statewide graduation requirements for the classes of 2019, 2020, and 2021. Since the first two pathways are based solely on Keystone Exam scores, all students, including any student enrolled in a Keystone trigger course during the spring of the 2019-20 school year, must have full access to all five options to meet graduation requirements.

We will need to review and revise the district's current policy on graduation requirements. We will work with our solicitor's office and present changes at a later date. Dr. Bompadre included a document outlining ACT 158 Graduation Requirements as required by the Delaware County Intermediate Unit.

B. Contract for Athletic Trainer – Dr. Constance Bompadre

Dr. Bompadre reported on the Contract for the Athletic Trainer. Mr. Gicking is still in negotiations to secure an athletic trainer. She wanted to alert the Board and anticipates presenting on the athletic trainer contract later this month at the Board Meeting.

C. Possible Reopening of School Scenarios – Dr. Tina Kane

Dr. Kane reported on possible reopening school scenarios. All reopening stems from CDC Guidelines including recommendations from the Department of Education and the Chester County Health Department. This initiative will include creating a plan, being mindful of health and safety compliance, focusing on professional development and

communication with families, along with school board approval and reviewing all policies. Dr. Kane sent a survey to parents and received 652 responses to date, with 65% of the responses requesting a physical return of students as their first choice. In order for this to happen, there are four items of compliance that must be considered including a plan to bring students and staff back to the physical building with social distancing; how to engage stakeholders; communicating the plan to our local community and once reopening occurs, how we make decisions.

The district has implemented a Pandemic Committee under the direction of Co-coordinators, Dr. Kane and Dr. Bompadre. The Pandemic Committee is developing a Comprehensive Plan including various scenerios. MNSD is approaching plans from a student-centered learning process. Dr. Kane recently shared four anticipated reopening plans with the district and families including Brick to Click (total reopening); Click to Brick (scaffold reopening where some students may return to the building and some will participate virtual); Blended Learning (some students return with staggered schedules) and Total Remote (all students return remotely until we phase into other options). PDE requires that all school districts submit a School Board approved Health and Safety Plan prior to reopening.

As a district, our focus is to have all our students back in school buildings while maintaining compliance with restrictions. There are many facets involved which require consideration. For example, a regular bus normally transports 72 students. With social distancing restrictions, only 12 people would be permitted on bus at one time. Students who require bus transportation to other districts, food services and face coverings are additional concerns which need to be discussed.

With staggered days, our team has exhausted all scenerios. Our district is awaiting PDE guidelines, and will share a “fluid plan”. Our district has invested into building our own virtual academy for the fall 2020-2021 using Schoology K-12. With the 1:1 initiative, teachers use different formats. We are also looking at synchronous instruction at home where a child can return when comfortable. The district will be providing professional development on Schoology and will build all our classes through Schoology to accommodate 1:1 initiative, and all classes will be built with standards.

VI. Motions

All motions will be moved along to the Board Meeting.

June 2020 CIT Motions

Keystone Exams:

- A. Motion to approve MNSD to not administer the Keystone exams for the entire spring 2019-2020 cohort. No student who was enrolled in a Keystone**

trigger course during the spring of the 2019-2020 school year may be denied the opportunity to take the Keystone exam.

1 to 1 Initiative:

- B. Motion to approve the lease of laptops from HP Financial Services at a cost of \$178,731.10 a year for a term of five years.**
- C. Motion to approve the purchase of cases for student laptops from CDWG at a cost of \$102,775.50. This is for the district's 1 to 1 initiative.**

Policies:

- D. Motion to approve the first reading of policy 124 Alternative Instruction Methods as presented.**
- E. Motion to approve the second reading of a new policy 006.1 Meetings of the Board as presented.**
- F. Motion to approve the second reading of policy 805 Emergency Preparedness as presented.**
- G. Motion to approve the second reading of policy 201 Admission of Students as presented.**

Academic Counseling at MNHS:

- H. Motion to approve a school within a school, MNHS STEM Academy. First application process to occur with 8th grade in fall of 2020. First year of the STEM Academy to begin fall of 2021.**
- I. Motion to approve an AP Capstone Diploma for students who earn the academic distinction.**
- J. Motion to add two new Advanced Placement (AP) offerings at the high school. Those two courses are (1) AP Seminar and (2) AP Research.**

AP Seminar is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Students learn to investigate a problem or issue, analyze arguments, compare different perspectives, synthesize information from multiple sources, and work alone and in a group to communicate their ideas.

AP Research, the second course in the AP Capstone experience, allows students to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, issue, or idea of individual interest. Students design, plan, and implement a yearlong investigation to address a research question. Through this inquiry, they further the skills they acquired in the AP Seminar course by learning research methodology, employing ethical research practices, and accessing, analyzing, and synthesizing information. Students reflect on their skill development, document their processes, and curate the artifacts of their scholarly work through a process and reflection portfolio. The course culminates in an academic paper of 4,000-5,000 words (accompanied by a performance, exhibit, or product where applicable) and a presentation with an oral defense.

- K. Motion to approve of a teacher from the Delaware County Technical High School to teach a course(s) at our high school instead of students traveling to the DCTS in Folcroft. The DCTS teacher has the capability to certify Marple Newtown students with industry certifications for that coursework.**
- L. Motion to approve the formation of an Advisory Council for the purpose of developing community partnerships with local businesses that will support career exploration in the form of job shadowing externships, internships, cooperative education, and apprenticeships. The council members will agree to a two year commitment as requested by the leadership of the council.**

Donations:

- M. Motion to approve the donation of \$2,700.00 in gift cards from the Giant Food Market in Broomall for Marple Newtown School District families in need.**
- N. Motion to approve the donation of \$11,000.00 from the Loomis PTO for paint to create games on the blacktop of the playground. Mr. Gallagher has already approved the plans for this project.**
- O. Motion to approve the donation of \$3,402.52 from Loomis PTO for four monitors to display in the following areas of the school: two in the cafeteria, one in the main foyer, and one outside the main office. Mr. Lee has approved the technology purchase and Mr. Gallagher has approved the location of the monitors.**

Athletic Trainer Service Contract:

- P. To approve a three (3) year athletic trainer services agreement between the Marple Newtown School District and MISHOCK PHYSICAL THERAPY, LP d/b/a Xcelerate Physical Therapy effective July 27, 2020 through June 30, 2023 pending review and approval of the Solicitor.**

Public Comment

A parent questioned if the full results of the parent surveys can be shared and questioned if there was any consideration in having focus groups per school to work through school reopening options. Dr. Kane reported that she will share the results of the parent surveys on the website. She reported that joint PTO groups are working with the district and looking at PTO fundraising initiatives. This has been shared in the Superintendent's message.

A parent commented that she appreciated the communications and the anticipated reopening plans. She inquired about the 1:1 technology proposal for five years and questioned if this was due to address Covid 19. It was reported that this is a five year lease agreement. With a learning management system, it will take us to the next level. Dr. Kane reported that the Reopening Plan is a difficult task as phases are ever changing. MNSD will continue to update families with further developments.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Vannicolo
Curriculum Secretary