

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

(Meeting was held virtual and open to the public)

PRESENT:

Board: Mr. Nicholas Siano, Mr. Matthew Bilker, Mrs. Desiree Tomasco, Mrs. Tracy Alberti, Mr. Dave Dezzi, Mr. Joseph Driscoll, Ms. Kathryn Chandless and Mrs. Barbara Harvey.

Administration: Dr. Tina Kane, Dr. Constance Bompadre, Mr. Jake Gallagher, Dr. Dorie Pitone, Mr. Jim Orwig, Mr. Matthew Flood, Mr. Matthew Oberecker and Dr. Heather Logue.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Siano called the meeting to order at 7:28 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 November 20, 2020 minutes were approved by the committee.

IV. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

V. Discussion/Informational Items

A. Curriculum Review Cycle Revisions – Dr. Dorie Martin-Pitone

Dr. Pitone reported on the Curriculum Development and Alignment Implementation Plan. In aligning with the shift from books to digital, the Teaching and Learning Team is currently working in collaboration with Administrators and Department Leaders to update and review the curriculum cycle. The goals in revising the cycle include mapping the Essentials – Review and Research by identifying priority standards and essential content through examination of our current standards and how the resources support learning? Program Resource Renewal or Purchase will allow our district to choose resources that most closely align and support priority standards and essential learning, scope and sequence and related assessments. It will determine budgetary, level of professional learning and resources needed. Teaching for Understanding and Impact for year one will allow the opportunity to implement resources for a one year period, establish cohorts of teacher leaders and allow for updated curriculum writing. A second year focusing on Teaching for Understanding and Impact will utilize the cohort teacher

leaders to identify areas of strength and need in curriculum and allow for necessary adjustments. Assessment and Evaluation during year 3 will review current instructional practices and related data to determine if updated resources are required and determine the need for continued professional learning. This curriculum revision cycle grants the opportunity to enhance and update curriculum documents and assessments.

B. 2021-2022 Academic Calendar – Dr. Constance Bompadre

Dr. Bompadre presented on the Academic Calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. She reported on Induction for new teachers and Professional Development days. School will begin for students after Labor Day. Teacher flex days are proposed for the last two teacher days and spring break is proposed to be a full week. She reported on the make-up snow days to be impacted after two snow days are used, school conferences and commencement date for our senior students. There was discussion on half days for professional development. Our district's goal is to continuously improve the skills and knowledge of our teachers for the benefit of increasing our student achievement. Dr. Kane presented the academic calendar to the SAC Committee. The proposed calendar will be posted to the website for review and will be presented at the January 26th, 2021 Board Meeting for final approval.

VI. Motions

All motions will be moved along to the Board Meeting.

January 2021 CIT Motions

- A. Motion to approve revisions to the Curriculum Review Cycle as presented.**
- B. Motion to approve the 2021-2022 Academic Calendar as presented.**

Public Comment

There was additional discussion from parents and the Board regarding the half days built into the calendar for Professional Development for our teachers. The Board and parents recognize the importance of professional days but also weighed in on having as much classroom time as possible for our students. A suggestion was made to combine two half days of professional development into one full day. This will be considered in future years.

There were discussions about specific curriculum for the high school level, along with who is responsible to set curriculum. Dr. Kane advised that the course catalog for the high school is on the website. She suggested parents can reach out to Mr. Jaspersen or Mr. Beltrante at the high school, the Teaching and Learning team or the college and career counselors at the high school. She reported that curriculum is board approved. Dr. Pitone reported that our district is currently in the process of updating our curriculum for each department, and they are meeting at departmental levels at this time. The priority standards and contents are located on the curriculum maps located on the PA Department of Education website. More detailed information on standards, scope and sequence will be forthcoming to our district website

following the completion of our ongoing departmental meetings between Teaching and Learning Team and individual department leaders.

A parent inquired where the Covid 19 information is located on our website. Dr. Kane directed parents to the Reopening Page. The current data is located at the bottom of this page. She will move the information to the top of the page where it will be more visible.

There was discussion on district equity and diversity and integrating this into the curriculum. Our district currently has a Diversity and Equity Committee which is in the beginning stages; however, Dr. Pitone and Mr. Flood added that there have been several related conversations with teachers, Special Education Department, Administrators and the Teaching and Learning team regarding diversity and equity and building this into our curriculum. Our district currently offers curriculum including multicultural literature by various authors and purchased manipulatives to complement these classes. Librarians are continually updating our websites and sharing related resources with teachers and students. This past summer, many of our district teachers participated in several diversity related webinar workshops for professional development. Our district will again participate in Black History Month activities in February, and we continue to strive as a district in promoting a culture to promoting equity, value and inclusivity of all students, staff and families.

A parent had questions on the beautification of grounds and signage at Loomis. Mr. Gallagher, Director of Operations, commented that he would discuss and assist Loomis' PTO on these concerns.

There was discussion on the Foreign Language at the elementary level. In the past, there were club opportunities at the elementary level. There was a World Language audit in place just at the time the pandemic had started. Our district currently participates in an Early Language Learner/Bilingual program and this topic will be revisited for further discussions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rose Vannicola
Curriculum Secretary