

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 16, 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, Mr. John MacKenzie, Mr. Nick Reynolds 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 6:45 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 January 19, 2021 minutes were approved by the committee.

IV. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Mr. Siano asked for a moment of silence in honor of Matthew Wzorek, a second-grader from Worrall Elementary, who passed away one year ago today, from complications of the flu. His passing was a tragic loss to our school and community. He reported that the family has created a Go-Fund Me Page in his honor called Matthew's Moonlight Foundations to help other families facing similar circumstances. He suggested that this information from social media be shared through district communications.

V. Discussion/Informational Items

A. Rapid Antigen Testing Plan – Mr. Neil Evans

Mr. Evans reported on the upcoming Plan for Rapid Antigen Testing. Marple Newtown School District will be participating in “assurance testing” through the Project Assisting Childhood Education through Increased Testing (ACE – IT) by conducting COVID-19 Rapid Testing in accordance with oversight from the Chester County Health Department. Assurance testing involves the entire population being tested over a specific period of time. Marple Newtown School District will also participate in the Rapid Testing which

will take place in the high school cafeteria, utilizing our school nurses. The testing is voluntary, free, and anticipated to begin at the end of this month. A link will be set up for registration. Cases which test negative will require no further testing. Cases that test positive will be referred to a Qtest or outside agency for PCR test. Special Education Staff will be tested first and followed by the remainder of staff. This testing is for individuals with asymptomatic symptoms. This is a proactive step to ensure the health and safety of our employees and students.

B. Phased School Re-opening Health and Safety Plan Updated– Dr. Constance Bompadre

Dr. Bompadre presented on the Phased School Re-opening Health and Safety Plan Updates. She reported that the purpose for updating our plan was to allow for further flexibility to adapt to changes in applicable health authority guidance. The plan was last updated in August of 2020.

The language and wording in the plan has been adapted to allow the district to shift with any updated health guidance as the Chester County Health Department has provided 12 versions of school guidance since June of 2020. In addition, the plan will allow elementary Unified Arts to use their own classrooms. Anything with 6 feet was eliminated and now says distance shall be in accordance with applicable health guidelines. This updated plan will allow our district to adjust our reopening plans as the guidance adjusts.

Mr. Bilker asked if there were any updates on the Chester County Health Department, more specifically any changes within the last three weeks?

Dr. Kane reported that rates of the Covid-19 virus are decreasing and anticipates some updates from the CDC as they are finalizing guidance plans in efforts to bring students back to the classroom five days per week. She reported that the district is in the process of making plans, working with Transportation, Human Resources, Operations, Special Education, Administrators and the Teaching and Learning Team. Dr. Kane's understanding, based on scientific data, is that it is advisable to start this planning. Dr. Kane has made three formal requests for consultation on upcoming guidelines. She reported that surveys were sent to district families and the majority of families want students in the classroom setting.

VI. Motions

All motions will be moved along to the Board Meeting. Mr. Siano thanked the Loomis Fifth Grade Class of 2021 for their generous donation to pay for the paint for the new school sign.

February 2021 CIT Motions

Policy:

- A. **Motion to waive the first reading of, and to adopt on second reading, Policy 824 – ACE-IT (Assisting Childhood Education through Increased Testing), as presented.**

Health and Safety:

- B. **Motion to approve the district's Phased School Re-opening Health and Safety Plan as amended.**

Administrative Trip:

- C. **Motion to approve Dr. Constance Bompadre and Mr. Neil Evans to attend a virtual conference, Promoting Social Justice in School Discipline and Equity Policies, on the mornings of March 10, 17 and 24, 2021 at a cost of \$125.00 per person.**

Donation:

- D. **Motion to approve the painting of the Loomis Elementary School sign from blue and white to black and orange. This project is a gift from Loomis Fifth Grade Class of 2021. The class of 2021 will pay for the paint, and the Marple Newtown Operations Department will select the paint and paint the sign for the students.**

Technology:

- E. **Motion to approve the 2021-2022 lease of computers for the Marple Newtown High School at a cost of \$174,430.22 a year for a term of five years.**

Public Comment

A parent thanked Dr. Kane and the Administration for their dedication and efforts in handling this pandemic and preparations in returning students to the classroom. He looks forward to further developments ahead.

A parent questioned guidelines for the general public as there is contradicting and inconsistent data. Dr. Kane and Mr. Bilker both commented they were familiar with the guidelines specific to school districts.

A parent commented it is time to get the schools reopened, especially for middle and high schools. She reported she has been working throughout this pandemic as a physician. It is

coming up on one year, and there is great need to focus on the students returning to the classroom learning setting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Vannicolo
Secretary
Teaching and Learning Department