

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, May 11, 2021
(Meeting was held at Marple Newtown High School and opened to the public)

PRESENT:

Board: Mr. Nicholas Siano, Mr. Matthew Bilker, Mrs. Desiree Tomasco, Mr. Dave Dezzi, Mr. Joseph Driscoll, Ms. Kathryn Chandless, Mrs. Barbara Harvey, Mr. Nick Reynolds and Mr. John MacKenzie.

Administration: Dr. Tina Kane, Dr. Constance Bompadre, Mr. Jake Gallagher, Dr. Dorie Martin-Pitone, Mr. Jim Orwig, Dr. Heather Logue, Mr. Christopher Lee and Mrs. Gina Ross.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Siano called the meeting to order at 6:57 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 April 13, 2021 minutes were approved by the committee.

IV. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

V. Discussion/Informational Items

A. Copier Lease and Maintenance Contract – Mr. Christopher Lee

Mr. Lee presented on the copier lease and maintenance contract. Mr. Lee and Mr. Driscoll looked into the possibility of a buyout versus the renewal plan. It was determined it was more cost effective to renew the lease, as a new company will reduce our costs by \$9,000.00 each year for a total in the range of \$156,000.00 annually for four years. This will cover the lease and maintenance district-wide. Mr. Lee is presenting to the Board this evening, and he will present a motion at the next Board Meeting.

B. Summer Learning Update – Dr. Dorie Martin-Pitone

Dr. Pitone presented an update on the Summer Learning Program. Marple Newtown School District will be offering both in-person and virtual summer programs free of charge. The Summer Learning Program for the secondary levels, including Paxon and Marple Newtown High School, will be conducted at the high school. Summer Learning Programs for the four elementary schools will be conducted at Worrall Elementary

School. There will be both a morning and afternoon session, and each session will run three hours. The sessions will be held Monday through Thursday for five weeks. Responses will be accepted until May 14, 2021, and the district requests a full commitment from families for the duration of the program. Mr. Keehn and Ms. Newton will be site coordinators for the secondary level and Mrs. Hostutler and Mr. O'Donovan will be site coordinators for the elementary level. Letters have been distributed to families. There are currently 153 students enrolled to participate in the summer learning program, and the district expects this number to increase slightly. This includes the in-person instruction, asynchronous option, Book Talks and STEM program.

Questions regarding the full commitment requirement, how students become eligible for the session and transportation were addressed. Dr. Pitone reported that the program is 19 days in length and offers a strong level of intervention for learning enrichment. The district requests a commitment because when a student misses instruction time, it presents a lack of consistency and interrupts the flow of instruction, making it difficult for a teacher working with the curriculum planning process. The asynchronous learning, Book Talks and STEM are offered to complement learning experience for those students who cannot commit to the in-person session. As in past years, transportation will not be provided.

The ESSERS grants will be used to fund these learning opportunities for the summer learning program and beyond into the school year. Teaching and Learning is looking at before and after school tutoring sessions during the school year. The funds are also used to cover the curriculum writing hours for teachers over the summer.

Reading specialists, the Teaching and Learning Team and Administrators collaborate together to determine the students who are most in need to participate in the program. Requests are sent to families with the offerings through a tiered process.

VI. Motions

All motions will be moved along to the Board Meeting.

May 2021 CIT Motions

Policies:

- A. Motion to waive the first reading of and to adopt on second reading Policy 137.1 – Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students.**

Book Disposals:

- B. Motion to approve the disposal of the list of books from the MNHS library as presented.**

Donation:

- C. Motion to approve the Loomis Elementary School PTO donation of \$1000.00 towards the purchase of a book vending machine. The machine will be placed in the main hallway near the display cases. Students will have the opportunity to earn coins raised through reading initiatives during the school year to purchase the books. The book(s) will be theirs to keep.**

Public Comment

A student at the high school and the president of the Band Association thanked the Board and Administration for their support and inclusion of the musical events this spring which boosted the morale for the music program.

A parent commended the Board and Administration on the remarkable job staying open during the pandemic. He inquired if there are any updates on the Covid situation or impact for opening schools next school year, as well as updates on the Equity and Diversity Committee. Dr. Kane responded that she had emailed the district staff and families this afternoon with the updated information received from the Chester County Health Department. Students in Grades K-12 will not be required to wear a face covering while participating in activities during outdoor physical education classes. The district will continue to follow guidelines from the Chester County Health Department, and it is anticipated that restrictions will ease going forward. There is no guidance on vaccines at this time as every day is highly fluid. Our positivity rate has declined to 4.5%, and we are currently at our second week below 100%. Dr. Kane will update the district as restrictions are modified. Mrs. Ross reported that there are two upcoming meetings for Diversity and Equity Committee. She will present a report to the Board at the end of June. Mrs. Ross will follow-up with this parent.

Board member, Mr. Siano, requested that the Board consider permitting the Grounds Department to wear shorts while working outside during the summer months. This will be discussed with the Director of Operations.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Vannicolo
Secretary
Teaching and Learning Department