

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, August 3, 2021
(Meeting was held at Marple Newtown High School and opened to the public)

PRESENT:

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

Administration: Dr. Tina Kane, Mr. Joel DiBartolomeo, Mr. Jake Gallagher, Mr. Jim Orwig and Mrs. Gina Ross.

I. Call to Order

Ms. Chandless called the meeting to order on behalf of Mr. Siano at 6:46 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 8, 2021 minutes were approved by the committee.

IV. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

V. Discussion/Informational Items

There were no discussion/informational items.

VI. Motions

Ms. Chandless inquired about the Newsela Resource contract. Mr. DiBartolomeo reported Newsela is a literacy-focused resource, developed by an edtech startup company which provides leveled and standards-aligned information content for K-12 students. This resource will be used in our grades 2-12 classrooms as a supplemental instructional resource. The annual cost for this contract is \$39,216.00 for a three-year period and will be funded through our Curriculum Budget. All motions will be moved along to the Board Meeting.

August 2021 CIT Motions

Administrative Trip:

- A. Motion to approve Dr. Dorie Martin Pitone, Director of Teaching and Learning, to attend (PAFPC) Pennsylvania Association Federal Program Coordinators Summer Leadership Forum on August 11 and 12, 2021 in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The cost of the conference is \$350.00. The total cost of the trip not to exceed \$800.00.

Book Disposals:

- B. Motion to approve the disposal of the list of books from the Loomis Elementary School library as presented.

Clubs:

- C. Motion to approve the MN IDEA Club at the Marple Newtown High School. The purpose of this club is to provide a safe and inclusive space for members of our school community regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, ability, or religion to create an open space for conversation, education and change. The club advisor is Nichole Shoch.

Athletic Trips:

- D. Motion to approve the High School Cross Country Team to attend the Cross Country Invitational hosted by Kutztown University on Saturday, September 11, 2021 in Kutztown, Pennsylvania. The cost of transportation is \$400.00. The cost of the activity is \$360.00. The total cost to the district is \$760.00.
- E. Motion to approve the High School Girls Basketball Team to attend the Girls Basketball Showcase, where college coaches attend, on December 29-30, 2021 in Wildwood, New Jersey. There is no cost for transportation as parents will be driving their students. The cost of the activity is \$150.00 paid by the district.

Mural:

- F. Motion to approve the painting of the Loomis wall ball by a parent volunteer as presented. The parent is providing the paint and supplies. There is no cost to the district.

Resource Contract:

- G. Motion to approve a three-year contract with Newslea and subject to the review and approval of final language by the Solicitor. This instructional technological resource will be used in our grades 2-12 classrooms as a supplemental instructional resource. The cost of this contract will not exceed \$39,216.00 annually for the duration of the three-year contract and will be funded each year through our curriculum budget.**

Public Comment

A parent, who is also an Emergency Room physician, commented that he applauded the Board and District's decision on making masks optional at last month's meeting. He comes again this evening to urge that the Board and District continue with this course of action going forward. As a physician, he had some concerns for the implications of continuous mask-wearing and possible conditions this may cause in years to come. In his medical expertise, he cited a study that children are not transmitting Covid 19. There have been significant psychological effects with continuous mask-wearing. He commended the Board and Administration on their success in handling the pandemic during much adversity.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Vannicolo
Secretary
Teaching and Learning Department