



Board of School Directors Committee Meetings Minutes Monday, February 12, 2018

Generated by Renai Cardillo on Tuesday, February 13, 2018

Members present: Nicholas Braccio, William Brong, Janet Flisak, Matt Holliday, Scott Jelinski, Ken Keith, Thomas Kwiatkowski, Stephen Nelson, Donna Scheuren

Others present: Nicole Bauer, Todd Brown, Henry Franz, John Franzen, Sharon Fuhrman, Frank Gallagher, Jen Granito, Matt Haines, Eric Hartman, Catherine Heller, Christopher Hey, Stu Majoram, Jeremy Miller, Katie Kennedy-Reilly, Josh Klimovich, Fran Masin-Moyer, Katie McCoy, Jeff Pammer, William Stone, Ellen Sykes, Sam Varano, Megan VanWart, Geri Wilkocz, and Megan Zweiback

1. Education-Personnel Committee

Mr. Kwiatkowski called the meeting to order at 6:28 P.M.

1.1 Annual Report - Secondary

Dr. Gallagher announced that the annual academic report presentation had been split into two presentations. The elementary report has been previously presented at the January committee meetings and secondary report which covers grades six through twelve, would be presented this evening. The administration split the presentation to allow for more focus and detail on each. Dr. Gallagher outlined the specifics of the district's secondary schools which includes 3,767 students, 269 teachers and three schools. He noted that the per pupil expenditure is \$18,225. Dr. Gallagher also reviewed the attendance rate of the secondary schools which is at 94%, demographic percentages as well as the percentages of special populations which include students identified as economically disadvantaged, special education students, students with a GIEP and limited English proficiency. Dr. Gallagher noted that the average current middle school classroom has 24 students and the core classes of high school are averaging 25 students per class.

Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Dr. Kennedy-Reilly highlighted the items that would be discussed within the presentation. They included Student Learning and data specific to curricular areas, Advanced Placement courses and scores, NOCTI certifications for North Montco Technical Career Center, clubs, events, athletics, and graduation.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly reviewed middle school social and emotional supports and Indian Crest Principal Mrs. McCoy spoke about W.E.B. (Where Everybody Belongs). Mrs. McCoy explained that W.E.B. is a transitional program where eighth grade students welcome and connect incoming sixth grade students. Mrs. McCoy explained that the activities of W.E.B. are geared toward establishing relationships and noted that it is very similar to the Link Crew program at the high school.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly reviewed the Pathway 360 slide explaining the comprehensive approach to helping students find the pathway to their future goals and how it assists students in course selection.

High School Principal Dr. Varano spoke about the Pathway 360 program and the in-house opportunities in terms of internships and mentorships that have been created for students. Dr. Varano cited the Law Enforcement Academy coordinated with a local police officer, giving students an opportunity to learn about careers in law enforcement, and the A.C.E. (Architectural, Construction & Engineering) internship which allows students to engage and learn locally, in real life situations. Another example is the DMC (Design, Marketing & Communications) Club, now in its third year, collaborating with local advertising and public relations firms. Dr. Varano also mentioned the partnership with Grand View Hospital, giving our students healthcare mentorship opportunities.

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Another program was instituted with the assistance of the Chalfont firm A.W. Weber, to teach girls how to code. Dr. Varano also noted the on-going collaboration between North Montco Technical Career Center and the high school citing student Jerry Zheng who excelled in his vocational studies along with high school studies and activities.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly reviewed student-centered instruction which has been enhanced with the implementation of the learning management system Schoology. This has students using their technology in a purposeful way. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly also reinforced the STEM emphasis which is supported by STEM committee to celebrate learning as well as create new opportunities for students.

Indian Valley Middle School Principal Mr. Pammer spoke about the STEM emphasis at Indian Valley which has been an effort to involve more women into the program. A new partnership with Ursinus University (and others) gives students a hands on program experience. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly noted how cross collaboration between subjects allows for students to dig deeper and learn across various disciplines.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly reviewed the SRI Scholastic Reading Inventory and ELA Data which measures the level of complexity that students can handle while reading. This data was also measured against County and State results. Keystone Literature results were reviewed. Additionally, a PVAAS scatterplot were reviewed indicating 3 year rolling average achievement and growth. College readiness data, SAT and ACT scores were reviewed and compared to State and National results.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly gave an update on secondary Math highlighting the critical features of teaching Math, the guiding questions for instruction as well as Benchmarks and Data Analysis. Math proficiency scores and benchmark data were reviewed. Individual middle level grade requirements were outlined as well as Algebra Keystone scores, and college readiness for Math.

Indian Crest Middle School Principal Mrs. McCoy spoke on the professional development that is occurring which allows for planned intervention within a school day. By using a model of Ongoing Progress Monitoring, the teacher is able to set performance goals for students, identify measurable objectives and identify enrichment where needed. Mr. Pammer noted that through grade level meetings, which also include special ed teachers, we have been able to unify toward common instruction and assessment. The ability to analyze this data allows for growth and improvement in instructional practices.

Mrs. Scheuren asked about input from the Intermediate Units and Dr. Kennedy-Reilly explained that the I.U. consultant has assisted teachers and coaches and reinforced the improvement measures we have put in place, specifically targeting instructional practices using Mathematical tasks.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly reviewed the Science PSSA and Biology scores noting that students are being taught that they are consumers of scientific and technology every day. Programs IQWST and TCI, are being used to support inquiry-based learning. It was noted that a considerable amount of work is being done in 6th and 7th grade to secure the skills necessary for the 8th grade Science PSSA test. There has been discussion about the spiraling of content to reinforce each year.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly noted that the objective for the Social Studies curriculum has been successfully grounded in the necessary component of being a citizen in our nation. This curriculum includes debates, simulation, role play, Socratic discussions, fish bowl, videos, podcasts and blogs.

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Dr. Kennedy-Reilly concluded the presentation commenting on the district goal to serve the whole child. She highlighted those disciplines to include 130 + course offerings that work toward the whole child. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly reviewed Family Consumer Science offerings, the Music department, the diverse courses within the Technology Education department, Visual Arts, Wellness, World Language, Library and Business courses.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly noted that we administer 21 AP subjects to over 597 students with 69% of those students earning the score of 3+. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly noted 81% advanced and competent in the North Montco Technical Career Center offerings. Currently 129 students are enrolled in a half day program and 29 in a full day program.

Clubs, events and athletics were highlighted as support to the whole child. All of these offerings supporting opportunities for students to learn, lead and engage in shared experiences.

Mr. Kwiatkowski thanked Dr. Gallagher and Dr. Kennedy-Reilly for the presentation. Mr. Kwiatkowski asked about the analysis of middle schools grades and how quickly we are set up to make adjustments. Mr. Pammer replied that we are able to make changes based upon expected progression of students', therefore enrichment and intervention can be addressed. Mr. Brong asked about systems in place to analyze data and Mrs. McCoy responded that intervention areas are selected using the benchmark assessment. The common assessment also allows for teachers to provide support immediately.

Mr. Kwiatkowski asked about the dip in Math scores in middle school and Dr. Gallagher said that there is a negative trend in the PSSA scores statewide, noting that the delivery of our mathematics program is changing. Our use of benchmarks and the frequent assessments of material covered will assist teachers in identifying struggling students. Mr. Braccio commented on his recent visit to Indiana Valley Middle School where he witnessed small group instruction, and a collective sense of the students to improve themselves. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly commented that as a teacher, there is also an individual desire to improve classroom performance.

Mr. Jelinski expressed concern about middle school scores and if we are part of a larger trend. Dr. Gallagher said that the conversation on teaching middle school math has increased. Mr. Jelinski commented on the "end game" and the positive results that are produced in high school.

Mrs. Scheuren asked about percentage improvements and estimates of scores and that they appear to be conservative. Dr. Gallagher spoke that benchmark and common assessment data would show those results in real time performance.

Mrs. Scheuren inquired about the Mechatronics course. Dr. Gallagher explained it as high end manufacturing; robotics, and automated assembly noting that we are one of the first technical schools to provide this instruction.

Mrs. Scheuren asked about feedback on teachers impact on anti-bullying and if the teaching staff believe it is under control. Dr. Varano responded that one of the best ways to combat bullying has been with the implementation of W.E.B. and Link Crew in the schools. There are positive supports.

Mrs. Flisak thanked the administration for building the assessment as a quality way to measure achievement. Dr. Gallagher mentioned the current district discussion that would add additional instructional time for Mathematics. Mr. Keith asked about the small group instruction and its impact on the remainder of the class. Mr. Pammer said that it occurs within the classroom, once students are identified.

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Mr. Brong asked about the tracking and comparison of 8th grade scores once a student reaches high school. Mr. Kwiatkowski commented on the strengthening of middle school scores to help students excel at the high school level. Mr. Keith praised the administration for the college readiness math scores.

A member of the public commented on test fatigue. Dr. Gallagher said we are aware and that we are changing the way we deliver tests and assessments. The fatigue that many experience is from PSSA, not from our benchmark or regular assessments. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly noted that we are very conscious of our testing and the duration of a test. Dr. Gallagher also commented on the adjustment students exhibit going from elementary to middle school. A member of the public praised the high school use of block scheduling.

Mr. Braccio asked about adding Data Meetings dates in BoardDocs.

Mr. Kwiatkowski thanked the administration for their efforts and adjourned the Education-Personnel Committee at 7:56 P.M.

2. Finance Committee

Mrs. Scheuren called the Finance Committee Meeting to order at 8:03 P.M.

2.1 Approve Addendum with Lakeside Educational Network

Mr. Stone explained that the request for addendum approval with Lakeside is for certain technology services. From the inception of its program in the early 2000's, the school district provided Lakeside with IT services. Based on review of state and federal law, the Administration determined that Lakeside needed a new internet service provider and its own student information system. The shared use of the student information system could result in a compromise to our State and federal subsidies. Lakeside will be performing these services at an additional cost of \$27,500.

Mrs. Scheuren asked if the amount was challenged and Dr. Gallagher and Mr. Stone said they used benchmarked costs. This potential conflict was brought to our attention during the food service audit when it was determined that the PIMS (PA Information Management Service) data needed to be separated as Vantage students and SASD students.

The Committee agreed to move the item for Board Action on February 22.

2.2 2018-19 Budget Discussion

Mr. Stone stated that this is the first detailed discussion on 2018/2019 budget with a focus on special education and the specifics that govern the process.

Dr. Gallagher spoke about federal IDEA legislation that governs how we implement an Individual Education Plan. Dr. Gallagher noted that the increased diagnosis of emotionally disturbed and autism increase our special ed enrollment.

Mr. Stone reviewed the special ed budget components and gave a description of professional services and tuition. Dr. Gallagher outlined the most highly regulated portion of our budget noting that the professional services trends are often very difficult to project. A discussion occurred regarding students whose needs cannot be met in district, and the tuition trends for placements out of district.

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Mr. Jelinski cautioned cutting corners on support staff and exposing the district to litigation.

2.3 Approve Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Budget

Dr. Gallagher commented that as required by the PA School Code, the Board must vote on the membership services budget for the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit. Dr. Gallagher noted that the SASD's contribution decreased by \$642 due to the enrollment and formula used by the MCIU.

The MCIU membership services budget includes professional learning, community government and relations (legal) and technology services budget.

Finance Committee Chairperson Mrs. Scheuren asked fellow Board members to vote no. Mrs. Scheuren commented that the MCIU is generating extra costs by dictating IEP supports provided to students.

Mrs. Scheuren also commented on the renovation on the old MCIU facility, previously deemed as unusable. Mrs. Scheuren suggested that a letter of explanation from the Board detailing its rejection be submitted to the MCIU.

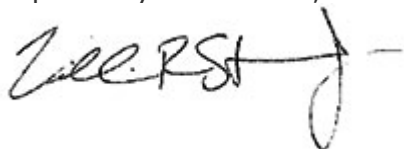
A discussion ensued about the MCIU budget, its preparation and presentation.

Mr. Keith agreed with a letter of explanation stating the position of the vote.

The Committee agreed to move forward for Board Action on February 22.

Mrs. Scheuren adjourned the meeting at 9:26 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W.R. Stone', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

William R. Stone
Board Secretary