



Board of School Directors Committee Meetings Minutes Wednesday, February 13, 2019

Generated by Renai Cardillo on Thursday, February 14, 2019

Members present: Nicholas Braccio, William Brong, Janet Flisak, Matt Holliday, Ken Keith, Thomas Kwiatkowski, Donna Scheuren, Courtney Barbieri

Members absent: Stephen M. Nelson

Others present: Todd Brown, John Franzen, Frank T. Gallagher, Jon Graf, Catherine Heller, Christopher Hey, Katie McCoy, Fran Masin-Moyer, Jeff Pammer, Brian Pawling, Geri Wilkocz, and Megan Zweiback

1. Education-Personnel Committee

1.1 Middle School Schedule Update

Mr. Kwiatkowski called the meeting to order at 6:52 PM.

Dr. Gallagher introduced the subject and Dr. Kennedy-Reilly reviewed a presentation updating the proposed changes to the Middle School Schedule. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly reiterated the priorities of the schedule; academic excellence, developmentally responsive, socially equitable and organizationally supported. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly highlighted some key features of the new schedule which include increased core instructional time, a STEM emphasis, additional electives and 6th grade 2 person teams.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly reviewed some individual characteristics of middle school students by age and grade level. The new schedule has been designed to meet and support those developmental characteristics, while creating a stimulating academic experience. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly reviewed the content of each grade level in the core subjects along with the descriptors of the related arts courses. Several subjects areas had indications of new or revised curricula to be introduced in the Spring.

Mr. Kwiatkowski asked about the feedback that parents had provided as they have been introduced to the plan through middle school parent forums. Mrs. McCoy indicated that conversations with parents have been positive, with many being excited about the STEM opportunity. Mr. Pammer also indicated that parents were receptive to the change and were looking forward for their students to have elective options.

There were several questions inquiring about the planning and preparation of instructional practices as they relate to grade level learning. Board members praised the presentation and commented favorably.

1.2 MAP Presentation

Dr. Gallagher introduced M.A.P. - Measure of Academic Progress explaining that it is a computer adaptive assessment that is used to monitor student achievement and growth over time.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly gave an overview of the program presenting sample questions along with the type of results that will be used to measure student achievement at any given moment. Student data may be reported in a classroom breakdown as well as by individual student. The advantage of the assessment is the almost immediate ability to report results as well as maintain and record growth and history. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly explained that when achievement and growth data are used together, it can provide meaningful insight into student learning to teachers, parents and students.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly noted that this first year will serve as a baseline and the tracking of results will follow students as they progress through the grade levels. The student profile will highlight student strengths and weaknesses.

Vernfield Principal, Dr. Jon Graf praised the tool for its ability to show a learning continuum, reflecting specific concepts and skills that students have mastered. Dr. Graf also spoke about growth and measurement data providing a valuable tool to teachers; allowing them to isolate and target students trouble areas immediately.

Mr. Kwiatkowski asked about how students new to the district would be measured and Dr. Kennedy-Reilly said that there are some baseline features that can be utilized until their testing begins. Mr. Kwiatkowski also inquired about the adaptability for ELL students and Dr. Kennedy-Reilly responded that there is an audio component. Mr. Holliday asked about the ability to compare RIT scores within the county and Dr. Kennedy-Reilly replied that it does not exist yet, however there is common language in the program that allows comparison with other curriculum directors.

Mr. Keith praised the presentation and noted that having a history of student data should prove beneficial. Mrs. Scheuren commented on the targeted goal data for students noting that it will also be useful for administration and the Board.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly stated that the current 8th grade class will transfer its data to the high school and will be the first incoming 9th graders to benefit from its use. Ms. Barbieri inquired about accommodations for student testing and Dr. Kennedy-Reilly stated that it would be aligned with existing accommodations for other assessments.

Mr. Braccio asked for additional clarification on the range of lower achievement and higher growth versus higher achievement and lower growth.

1.3 Future Ready Index

Dr. Gallagher noted that this is the new tool that the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) will be using to report on school progress, replacing the previously used School Performance Profile.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly explained the formula which was used by PDE to calculate the results. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly highlighted the district long-term performance goals, ELA and Math achievement, and graduation rate. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly reviewed the dashboard reporting options of the website, noting the interim goal chart is critical to bring context to the data being reported on the website.

Mr. Kwiatkowski adjourned the Education-Personnel Meeting at 8:03 P.M.

2. Finance Committee

2.1 Approve Montgomery County Intermediate Unit Budget

Mrs. Scheuren called the meeting to order at 8:10 PM

Dr. Gallagher introduced the MCIU Membership Services Budget explaining that it is made up of three separate service areas; Office Of Community and Government Relations, Office of Professional Learning, and Office of Technology Services. Dr. Gallagher also explained that each of the Montgomery County school districts contribute to this budget using calculations based on districts' market value and enrollment.

Director of Pupil Services, Mrs. Zweiback spoke positively about the MCIU services as they relate to our implementation of Act 44 and Dr. Kennedy-Reilly commented on the useful services of the Offices of Professional Learning for their support of text dependent analysis.

Dr. Gallagher noted that the Cost Plan for Special Ed Services will be brought to the Board separately.

There were no questions from the Board and it was agreed to move forward.

2.2 Approve Athletic Training Services Contract

Dr. Gallagher commented on the recent Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for athletic training services at the high school that resulted in the Grand View Health proposal that is being reviewed for approval. Dr. Gallagher noted that the current agreement with NovaCare expires on June 30, 2019.

Grand View Health (GVH) proposes to provide the services at no cost to the District for the term of the agreement. Additionally, GVH is offering an additional "stipend" of \$100,000 that can be used for a variety of programs at SASD's discretion. This includes the existing sponsorship income for the stadium/gym; thus, a net increase of about \$75,000 per year.

Dr. Gallagher stated that the agreement has been thoroughly vetted by the District's legal counsel and reiterated the opportunity that this proposal presents to the District.

The Board agreed to move forward for board action.

2.3 Governor's Budget Address

Dr. Gallagher reviewed some items outlined in the Governor's Budget Address including Basic Education Funding, Ready to Learn Grants, Early Education, School Safety and Transportation. He briefly discussed their impact on the school district. The next budget items of interest will be and how each of the items may or may not benefit the school district.

Dr. Gallagher announced a March 25th Town Hall Meeting to be held at Indian Crest Middle School. Additional information is forthcoming.

Mrs. Scheuren adjourned the Finance Committee Meeting at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Renai M. Cardillo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Renai M. Cardillo
Acting Board Secretary