



Board of School Directors Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, November 10, 2021

Generated by Renai Cardillo on Thursday, November 11, 2021

Members in attendance: Courtney Barbieri, Nick Braccio, Bill Brong, Janet Flisak, Matt Holliday, Tom Kwiatkowski, Stephen Nelson, and Donna Scheuren

Members Absent: Ken Keith

Others present: Henry Franz, Frank Gallagher, Tim Gwynn, Christopher Hey, Katie Kennedy-Reilly, and Megan Zweiback

1. Education-Personnel Committee

1.1 Update to PA Graduation Requirements

Mr. Kwiatkowski called the meeting to order at 6:33 P.M. noting two items on the agenda.

Superintendent Gallagher stated that this was the first reading of the High School Program of Studies, followed by two additional readings before finalization. Dr. Gallagher also stated that High School Principal Sam Varano was in attendance to discuss the changes.

Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment and Technology, Dr. Kennedy-Reilly presented slides which reflected the Ways to Satisfy Pennsylvania Graduation Requirements; the Keystone Proficiency Pathway. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly stated that this information was also presented last December and modifications have been made as a result of the pandemic. She also noted that the changes will apply to the current junior class of students (graduating 2023).

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly introduced Principal Varano who in turn, introduced High School Assistant Principal Josh Klimovich, noting his position as Master Scheduler, supporting student course requirements.

Dr. Varano stated that our current curriculum responds to the first Keystone (Exam) Proficiency Pathway in Algebra I and Literature, and noted that we will need to add Biology. Dr. Varano also discussed the second pathway; the Keystone Composite Pathway which outlines at least one Keystone score is proficient, no score of below basic and the composite Keystone score is 4452. The third pathway is a Career & Technical Education Pathway. Dr. Varano said the third option is a clear and doable path for North Montco Technical Career Center students. He noted that the majority of NMTCC students will achieve the industry-based competency certifications associated with their trade, qualifying for the NOCTI and developing a portfolio aligned with their career pathway.

Dr. Varano also noted that 75% of all high school students already complete a 2-hour unpaid mentorship in a career area of interest.

Mr. Kwiatkowski asked about notifying parents and students about the specific graduation requirements and Dr. Varano stated that this communication would occur at the very beginning of the senior year. Dr. Varano also stated that students are encouraged to perform a mentorship as it has proven to be a valuable opportunity. Mr. Kwiatkowski asked how the mentorship is measured for success and Dr. Varano replied that a written reflection is recorded in the students Pathway account.

Mrs. Barbieri stated that she appreciated the guidelines allowing for more than one way of achieving graduation. Mr. Holliday thanked Dr. Kennedy-Reilly and Dr. Varano for the update.

Mrs. Scheuren expressed interest in the ASVAB test and the ability to offer it immediately. Dr. Varano responded that while we do not offer it right now, we are seeking ways to offer it. The ASVAB is The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery and is a well-respected aptitude *test* developed by the Department of Defense.

Mr. Kwiatkowski suggested that the Director of NMTCC attend an upcoming Education-Personnel Meeting to further discuss the CTE goals and objectives.

1.2 High School Program of Studies

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly asked Dr. Varano to elaborate on the changes to the Program of Studies for the 2022-2023 school year.

Dr. Varano noted that addition of *Introduction to Education* is a dual credit course and will assist in preparing students interested in the field of education for a mentorship. He noted that we have had an Education Internship for many years, this course will be a comprehensive introduction.

Dr. Varano also noted the name changes to the Music department courses, stating that the new names *Tenor-Bass Choir*, *Singers/Concert Choir*, *Treble Choir*, and *Rock Band* more accurately reflect the purpose and composition of the groups. He also noted the addition of *Finance and Investing* which will expand students' interest and knowledge in business with a specific focus in financial modeling, inspiring and serving potential business majors and entrepreneurs.

The Family and Consumer Science Department will also be adding *Teaching Young Children* course. This is a dual credit course focusing on intellectual and physical development from birth to pre-K with an emphasis on the career of teaching.

Mr. Kwaitkowski asked if there were any subtractions to courses and Dr. Kennedy-Reilly replied no. Dr. Varano also noted that no new staffing was needed for these courses.

Mrs. Barbieri asked about making the dual credit courses available to students who may not be able to afford the course and Dr. Varano said that the school actually has a fund that could support that need. The Guidance Department could assist in facilitating.

Mrs. Scheuren asked how new courses are selected and Dr. Varano replied that the feedback is received directly from teachers and students. He also noted that the current course offering of *Personal Finance* is mandatory for all students.

A member of the public, Ms. Shelly asked if a student was to take a dual credit course over the summer, would they still receive credit and Dr. Varano responded yes, it would be at their convenience.

Mr. Kwiatkowski thanked area veterans for their service during this week of Veterans recognition.

The committee agreed to move the Program of Studies forward for a second reading.

Mr. Kwiatkowski adjourned the Education-Personnel Meeting at 7:06 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael Taylor, C.P.A.
Director of Business Affairs / Board Secretary