

## **Board of School Directors Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, August 14, 2019**

Generated by Renai Cardillo on Wednesday, August 21, 2019

**Members present:** Nicholas Braccio, William Brong, Janet Flisak, Thomas Kwiatkowski, Stephen Nelson, Donna Scheuren

**Members absent:** Courtney Barbieri, Matt Holliday and Ken Keith

**Others present:** Frank T. Gallagher, Christopher D. Hey, John Franzen, Katie Kennedy-Reilly, Brian Pawling, and Geri Wilkocz

### **1. Education-Personnel Committee**

Mr. Kwiatkowski called the Education-Personnel meeting to order at 6:36 P.M. noting a change in the order of agenda items to discuss the middle school curriculum first.

#### **1.1 New Middle School Courses - Intro to Coding & 7th Grade Guidance**

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly noted that the middle school Guidance curriculum had previously been focused on academic achievement. The new course titled 7th Grade Guidance is designed to support students in developing skills and strategies to be successful across three domains: academic, social/emotional, and career. In this course students will expand their understanding of academic tools, social strategies and career awareness and readiness.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly noted that the Guidance course will assist students in their transition to 8th grade as well as prepare them for their Pathway toward high school. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly also noted that this course will meet the requirements of school counseling requirements as outlined in the Chapter 339 by the PA Department of Education.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly introduced the Intro to Coding course stating that is a project-based course designed to teach students how to build their own webpages. Students will learn to code using Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) and Cascading Style Sheets (CSS). Supervisor of Curriculum Mrs. Wilkocz commented that this course was developed by teachers who had secured a grant. The intent was to create a course that will provide students with computer science foundations that will follow them into high school. The course is part of a complete STEM package offering. The PA Smart Grant will also allow our teachers to optimize their skills, and be certified in Computer Science.

Mrs. Flisak congratulated the securing of the grant and for bringing the opportunity to the school. Mr. Kwiatkowski also praised the student opportunity.

It was agreed to move both courses forward for Board action.

#### **1.2 New High School Courses - Academic Decathlon/Honors Seminar and Web Programming**

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly reminded the Board that they had been briefed previously on these courses by high school teachers Mike Olenick and Phil Cerami.

The Web Programming course is a continuation of and part of a deliberate effort from the existing middle school course, Introduction to Coding. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly introduced network manager Mr. Bill Hazel. Mr. Hazel discussed the intention to leverage use of AWS (Amazon Web Services) which will allow student use to create and host web pages. The Web Programming course is scheduled to be introduced in the second semester of the 2019/2020 school year.

A brief discussion occurred about protections for existing district web servers and Dr. Kennedy-Reilly responded that all student work would be created in an educational environment and is protected from public use. She also noted that this is a high grade course intended for 11th and 12th grade students.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly reminded the Board of the April presentation by high school teacher Mr. Cerami, outlining the proposal for the Academic Decathlon/Honors Seminar Course. Dr. Gallagher explained that the Academic Decathlon program selects their topic of study annually stimulating a deep dive into a particular subject matter. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly noted that it is not mandatory for a student to participate in the Academic Decathlon club to take this course as an elective.

Mr. Kwiatkowski inquired about the number of interested students in the course and Dr. Kennedy-Reilly responded that there are currently 20 students who have elected to take the course. Mr. Nelson and Mr. Braccio praised the real-world aspect of the course.

It was agreed to move both courses forward for Board action.

Mr. Kwiatkowski adjourned Curriculum Council at 7:09 P.M.

## **2. Technology Committee**

### **2.1 Technology Update**

Mr. Braccio called the Technology Meeting to order at 7:11 P.M.

Mr. Braccio stated that the purpose of the meeting was informational this evening.

Dr. Gallagher said that it has been a very busy summer and praised Dr. Kennedy-Reilly for bringing leadership to the technology team.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly commented that the last update on technology had been in May. Since that time, all devices had been collected, refurbished and re-purposed to allow for distribution beginning on August 19, 2019.

Dr. KKR gave an overview of each of the projects that the Technology Department had been supporting:

#### **Network – Indian Valley Middle School**

- Indian Valley Middle School's network upgrade to 10GB has been completed. The work will result in an increase performance which will positively impact instructional use and assessment administration.

#### **Wi-Fi – Elementary schools**

- The Wi-Fi upgrade project for all elementary buildings is complete. We are currently making adjustments and fine tuning to ensure coverage for instructional needs.

#### **Help Desk**

- The Help Desk project is on track and scheduled to be rolled out to our staff next week.

#### **Student Devices**

- New sixth and ninth grade devices were received at the end of June. They are ready for distribution.
- Seventh, eighth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth grade devices were collected in June. Through the summer they were prepared for redistribution. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly noted that the number of repaired devices numbered 400+ and that devices are ready for distribution. Ticket Leap scheduling has been very successful in all of the buildings. 6th grade devices will be distributed in the classroom under leadership instructional role.

#### **Distribution**

- Secondary distribution is going smoothly. We incorporated the use of a free online scheduling program called Ticket Leap. In addition, we expanded our hours of distribution to support family schedules. Sixth grade distribution is scheduled for the first week of school as part of students' transition into middle school.

#### **Teacher Devices**

- After our new teacher devices are acquired, we will collect our tenth-grade Chromebooks and redistribute them to support elementary students' instructional and assessment needs. Tenth-grade students will receive the Windows devices, previously used by teachers.

#### **Panels/Projectors/Displays**

- The current classroom boards that are end of life are being replaced through a tiered approach:
  - View Sonic Interactive: Multi touch screen with cast content sharing software
  - TV: 65 inch
    - ScreenBeam: Wireless display with classroom management software

#### **iPads**

- Developing iPad management cycle
  - District team supported by Apple Engineers and Technical Support

#### **High School Computer Labs**

- Data from walk through are being compiled
- Meetings will be scheduled for early in school year to develop plan to meet needs

#### **Architecture of Technology**

- Solar Winds

**Internet service**

- Current project
- Our service providers are Comcast and MCIU totaling 1.4Gbps. These connections provide flexibility, load balancing, and redundancy to meet the dynamic demands of each building. Our reliance to highly available internet content, cloud hosted products, services, research, etc. requires a manageable infrastructure in a seamless manner.

**Internet Filter**

- Exploring options for increased efficiency and benefits

**Training/Professional Development**

- Help Desk
- Microsoft applications
- New panels and displays
- New devices

**BCIU Support**

- Microsoft Licensing
  - Enrollment for Education Solution Agreement
- Veeam
  - Veeam Backup and Recovery provides a backup and disaster recovery (DR) platform that can protect district virtual and physical servers from data loss or corruption. This industry leading software will significantly improve backup time, enhance backup speed and reliability, and reduce the time needed to validate and manage district backup operations.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly highlighted each item noting the specifics of device repairs, re-purposing and re-distribution. She also spoke in detail of the panels and projectors and the specific device in use within Math and Science classrooms and that other departments and classrooms would be utilizing a regular TV monitor. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly also explained screen-beam, which will allow a TV to be interactive with a device, without overloading other programs.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly also discussed the creation of a management cycle for iPad devices primarily used in elementary buildings which will allow for iOS updates and app downloads. Other items of discussion included the iBoss internet filter and the continuation to explore other options.

Dr. Kennedy-Reilly praised the technology team for the volume of work that they successfully completed.

Several questions were asked about the Help Desk, as well as perceived limitations of Windows based programs.

Mr. Braccio and Mr. Nelson praised the level of work of the team.

Mr. Brong inquired about student internet access outside of the school-day. Dr. Gallagher acknowledged district awareness and the steps that are being addressed to secure internet access for students who may not have access at home. Dr. Gallagher mentioned that The Indian Valley Boys & Girls Club is available as a public hot spot location and that the Indian Valley Public Library also loans out physical hot spot devices to their patrons.

Dr. Gallagher reminded everyone that it is not always necessary for students to have internet access to complete projects or homework. Many assignments may be completed on a device off-line and submitted, upon return to the school building.

Mrs. Scheuren inquired about device repairs, warranty and the re-purposing of devices. Mrs. Scheuren acknowledged the savings of re-purposing teacher devices.

Mr. Braccio adjourned the meeting at 7:56 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Brian Pawling  
Board Secretary