



Board of School Directors Committee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, September 14, 2022

Generated by Renai Cardillo on Tuesday, September 20, 2022

Members in Attendance: Courtney Barbieri, Nick Braccio, Janet Flisak, Andrew Landis, Ken Keith, Tom Kwiatkowski, and Stephen Nelson

Members Absent: Bill Brong and Donna Scheuren

Others in Attendance: Todd Burns, Henry Franz, John Franzen, Frank Gallagher, Christopher Hey, Katie Kennedy-Reilly, Vanessa Krauss, Kristen Momsen, Kim Musselman, Christine Nenstiel, Jeff Pammer, Walt Salevsky, Kristen Stoddart, Michael Taylor, Sam Varano, and Megan Zweiback

1. Education-Personnel Committee

1.1 Curriculum Revisions and Updates

Mr. Kwiatkowski called the Education-Personnel meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

Dr. Gallagher acknowledged the recent passing of local newspaper reporter Bob Keeler, noting his contribution to the school community.

Dr. Gallagher stated that the Curriculum Department would be presenting revisions to middle school and high school programs. He introduced Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment & Technology, Dr. Katie Kennedy-Reilly. Dr. Kennedy-Reilly welcomed everyone, including the teachers from several schools. Supporting summary documents were distributed to the Board.

Supervisor of Curriculum, Mr. Burns reviewed the revisions to the curriculum and introduced middle school Wellness teachers, Vanessa Krauss and Kristen Stoddart. Ms. Krauss and Ms. Stoddart shared the various units of instruction supporting the middle school Health & Wellness Program. It was explained that cooperation and understanding are critical to classroom success, and not simply a mastered skillset in physical activity. They also spoke to the steps to bridge the transition from elementary school to the middle school Wellness program.

Ms. Krauss and Ms. Stoddart spoke to the health components that are taught including personal health, body systems, safety, drugs, non/communicable diseases, mental health and nutrition. It was stressed that course work will focus on developing students knowledge and understanding to create their own healthy positive lifestyle.

High School Principal Dr. Varano introduced High School ELA teacher, Kristen Momsen, noting that this course is relatively new and was an outgrowth of department collaboration and desire to meet the growing needs of ESL students. Ms. Momsen explained the Introduction to Literature course for ESL students, stating that there are three different options (or tracks) which will allow for their progression prior to transitioning to mainstream English classes. She noted that each track introduces themes and facets of humanity's fortitude and evolving influence through literature, film and historical/current events. Ms. Momsen also spoke to the strengthening of ESL students speaking, listening, and comprehension skills, noting their eagerness to learn.

High School ESL teacher Kim Musselman spoke about the course ESL 3. Ms. Musselman also expressed the ESL students' desire to learn, despite the many challenges that they have experienced prior to enrolling in our school district. Ms. Musselman elaborated on the challenges of the diverse population in the course, and the efforts to support ESL students, not only in the ELA course but across all of their academic courses. Ms. Musselman cited the units within the course, that foster understanding, expression, reasoning, perspective, and belonging.

Dr. Varano introduced High School Wellness teacher Christine Nenstiel who spoke about the course Analysis & Application of Movement and Sport. Ms. Nenstiel summarized the course noting a unit which allows students to explore Career Paths in Movement/Exercise Science and then focuses on the components of the Human Movement System. Ms. Nenstiel explained the various human body sections and the relationships between joints, muscles and functionality in each section. Ms. Nenstiel also spoke to the Kinesiology unit and the student applications using critical thinking, research and communication to make their own determinations about movement intelligence.

Supervisor of Curriculum, John Franzen introduced a slide showing a TrustEd Apps logo, explaining the process that the school district uses to protect student privacy in a digital environment. Mr. Henry Franz, Digital Media Specialist explained the vetting process that the district has had in place for several years for its use of apps, for both staff and students.

Mr. Kwiatkowski commented on the energy and passion on the subject matters that had been presented this evening. Mr. Kwiatkowski praised the collaborative efforts that exist across course studies. Mrs. Barbieri commented on the excitement of the teachers and the content that the next generation of students will be receiving. Mr. Landis also commented on the great programs and key concepts being taught.

Mr. Braccio thanked the teachers for their dedication and stated his acknowledgement on the diversified nature required to teach an ESL class. Mr. Braccio expressed interest in observing an ESL class. Mr. Nelson also praised the teachers who presented this evening, commenting that their presentations were brought to life when actual classroom examples were shared.

Mr. Kwiatkowski adjourned the Education-Personnel Meeting at 7:20 P.M.

2. Finance Committee

2.1 Budget Process Timeline

In the absence of Finance Committee Chairperson Mrs. Scheuren, Mr. Kwiatkowski called the meeting to order at 7:23 P.M.

Director of Business Affairs, Mr. Taylor reviewed a tentative schedule for developing the 2023-2024 school district budget. Mr. Taylor indicated that the deadline had already passed for the Pennsylvania Department of Education to publish the 2023-2024 permitted Act 1 tax increase base index. He noted that it is expected to be announced very soon, and expectations are that it will be in the range of 4.1 - 4.2%. Mr. Taylor also stated that he would expect to make the announcement at the next Finance Committee Meeting in October.

Mr. Taylor noted the other dates as public notifications of projected dates for budget development and when they will occur throughout the school year.

Dr. Gallagher stated that it is an election year and as a new governor would be seated, there is an allowance for an extra month to the Commonwealth for budget preparation. He also indicated that there is not an extension for school districts.

Several board members expressed concern about the calculation of the Act 1 Index and its potential impact on the community. Mr. Taylor noted that the calculation is the average of the percentage increase in the statewide average weekly wage and the employment cost index.

Mr. Keith thanked Mr. Taylor for the update, indicating that it is early in the budget cycle. Mr. Kwiatkowski asked about potential borrowing needed for construction projects and Mr. Taylor responded that there would be a presentation at the October Finance Committee Meeting regarding future borrowing.

Mr. Kwiatkowski adjourned the Finance Committee Meeting at 7:33 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



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