

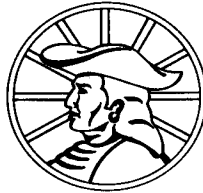
MILLVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of August 8, 2013

PRESENT: Larry Breech, Cheryl Kessler, Susan Myers, Frank Suchwala, Kathee Stark

The meeting began at 5:30 pm. with a discussion of credit recovery through cyber courses. It was decided that students should take the courses offered through the district in district classrooms. However, if there is a schedule conflict with other required courses or there has been a personality conflict with the same teacher, then and only then should the online option be used for such situations.

The committee discussed Brain Ware SAFARI. This is a software program which plays like a game but is meant to improve cognitive ability. The results from use in other districts have been phenomenal. In addition, the improvements have led to as much as a 50% reduction in special education costs. The program needs to be used 3-5 days per week for 30-40 minutes in each sitting. This needs to occur for 10-14 weeks (most do 12 weeks). The best option to provide this opportunity appears to be through social studies classes. It is recommended that it be used in grades 3-7. Districts in the IU have been offered a discount of about 50% to use the product this year. We may also be a pilot school and receive even greater reductions.

Two students have asked for a co-op. A pilot with Vo-Tech in Distributive Education is in the process of being developed. PDE has approved it, and the requirements would be completion of a Career Objective Form, with onsite visits 1 hour/month and student meetings 2 times/month. Students would have to provide their own transportation. **NOTE:** AS of 8-9-13, one of the students has changed his mind, and we are checking with the other to confirm participation and alignment of work experience to career goals.

The committee was informed that it appears that laptops and iPads will be available for teachers about September 15. They will have training prior to distribution to students. Some grades levels may be ready for implementation earlier than others. These requests will try to be accommodated. In the interim, seniors will be issued laptops, and their files will be moved to the Macs at the appropriate time. The committee also discussed options for the self-insurance aspect of the initiative. This is a separate page. Purchases through the iTunes store will need to be closely watched, and guidelines are in the process of being developed. The iPads in grades 4-6 and laptops in grades 7-12 will be taken home. K-3 iPads will be for in-school use only.

For many years, seniors have been allowed to leave school early (at the beginning of Activity Period) if they are passing all classes and have no other obligations. Last year, that opportunity was extended to juniors who passed all three Keystone exams. It is recommended that this be allowed again this year.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Submitted by Kathee Stark