CSIU unveils AI task force initiative

Officials wanted to create 'toolbox' for schools to use

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MONTANDON — A major Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU) 2024 initiative — artificial intelligence — was discussed during Wednesday night's board meeting.

CSIU has established a task force to study AI in such areas as productivity, safety and ethics.

"We want to lead in this area, as opposed to being a victim of it," CSIU Executive Director John Kurelja said.

The meeting began with a presentation by Chief Outreach Officer Bernadette Boerckel on the basics of the AI language model ChatGPT and its importance to administrators, teachers, and students.

Then, she brought to the podium members of their AI task force.

"We started meeting together in September," she said. "During that time we created a 'toolbox,' and we are now putting it out to the world. The next step will be sharing the toolbox. An AI toolbox is curated with some of the best courses, tools, uses and policies related to AI.

"Members of the AI task force are going to the Modern Learning Conference next week, which has a focus on AI, and then we are going to create

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a kind of symposium for school districts this spring, followed by a year-long professional development outreach."

CSIU Chief Academic Officer Alan Hack was up next to brief the board on initiatives that will be taken to provide a pathway for folks to enter education.

"Pennsylvania has a shortage of teachers," he said, "and CSIU has been tasked with creating a model program that can be utilized throughout the commonwealth. Anyone can enter education. We have expanded our outreach.

"The CSIU, for example, has a registered teacher apprentice program. So, if you know someone interested in education, this program could be of value."