

Curriculum, Instruction and Technology Committee Meeting

March 21, 2022

Those in attendance were: Dr. Dion Betts, Dr. Sherian Diller, Mrs. Faye Gaugler, Mr. Benjamin Raber, Mr. Lance Walker, Mrs. Tamera Stouffer, Mr. Kurt Widmann, Mrs. Crystal Lautenslager, Mrs. Lindsay Breslin, Mrs. Dionne Martin, Mrs. Angela Pollock, Ms. Beth Yosler, Mrs. Nicole Brookens, Mrs. Susan Berrier, Mrs. Joey Reineman, Mr. Jonathan Michael

Approval of Minutes from 1/31/2022 Meeting:

One addition was made to the minutes of the last meeting: ESSR's money is being used to fund the initiatives.

Mrs. Gaugler made a motion to accept the minutes as amended. Mr. Raber seconded the motion. The minutes from the January 31, 2022 meeting were approved as amended.

ELA Resource Update

Elementary: The vote was taken and the group chose McGraw-Hill Open Court for the ELA Curriculum for K-5. The group that voted included instructional specialists, librarians, and teachers from the elementary level.

At the April COW meeting will be when a 30-day review will start for this curriculum. Due to supply chain demands there might be a need to have a second board meeting to vote on the curriculum so it can be ordered.

Teachers books and information will be in first and the student information will be in by the beginning of school. There will be some Professional Development days set up for the teachers to learn the curriculum over the summer. The plan is to have 3 different days over the summer for training. The first training will be the week after school is out and at the end of June. The third training will be the 1st week of August. One of the training days will be a flex day for teachers and the other two will be paid days.

Everyone is very excited about this new ELA curriculum. Different people that were involved in the selection process spoke about the process and the curriculum. This new curriculum has a solid phonics program. It is very heavy on foundational skills. These foundational skills should be continued through the primary grades. It was stated from a teacher perspective the Open Court manual will not be overwhelming. There are options for lower and higher readers in this program (i.e. if a student is in 3rd grade and is reading at a 2nd grade level there is items the

teacher can use for that reading level). There is a technology part to this new curriculum. For those who have issues with internet, there is an app that they can use. The EL teachers were very happy with this curriculum as it will help them with their students.

There was some concern with students receiving extra help that need it. It was suggested to have more aides in the classrooms or volunteers to help so teachers can work with students who need remedial help. There were several options that were explained to the committee of the different ways extra help is being utilized at some schools.

Secondary: The vote was taken and the group chose McGraw-Hill Study Sync for the ELA Curriculum for grades 6-12. The group that voted included instructional specialists, librarians, and teachers from the secondary level.

It was felt that this program has a nice selection of literature and diversity. It has multi-pathways and a common standard assessment. It does have a user-friendly technology portion. The EL teachers are supported in this curriculum for their students.

There will be professional development scheduled for the secondary teachers too.

Timeline for Selecting Other Curriculum

Math: They have started now looking at the curriculum. K-8 now use Eureka. They are looking into the updates this company has made to their curriculum. For grade 9-12 there are also looking at options to replacing their current curriculum.

Social Studies: The committee will start looking this summer in to the fall to purchase curriculum for Social Studies:

Science—The state is working on updating the PA State Standards for Science. Right now, they only have a rough draft. It is the plan to wait until the state standards are finalized and then start looking at curriculum.

Related Arts—They will look at this as needed.

The process that was used for choosing the ELA curriculum will be implemented for choosing the other curricula.

Learning Loss Update

Mr. Widmann reviewed the update for the four different methods and extended school year that the district is using to help students with the learning loss. All are working well. Elementary will be focusing on students that have the biggest learning loss gap in ELA and Math for summer school.

The district is using the Loss of education fund from ESSERS to pay for the different programs that have been implemented.

Once again there was concern of reaching all students that need remedial help. For example, some students that are in the tutoring program have parents who cannot pick them up on time. Perhaps there could be volunteers to stay with the students after tutoring is over to help them with their work and studies until the parent comes to get them. The committee was informed that at many elementary schools the YMCA program and Boys and Girls Club help the children with their work and studies. However, it was stated at the outlying schools these programs are not in place.

CASHS AP Music Textbook

The AP Music textbook is on review until the April board meeting. The textbook is in the main lobby.

Technology

Due to absences of the technology presenters most of the subjects on the agenda will be address at the next meeting of the C, I and T Committee.

Blended Learning: Mr. Michael did give a brief overview of blended learning. They are making sure that technology and paper & pencil skills are being used in the classroom. At present time they are working with the principals and teachers to find out how they feel it should look like.

Kindergarten Registration

Mr. Widmann reported that so far there are 312 students registered for kindergarten for the 2022-2023 school year. There is a push to reach out to the community to have them register their children now. Some parents have withheld registering their child for kindergarten due to the fact they wanted them to have a normal start to the school year. The upcoming kindergarten numbers may be high. Mr. Widmann stated that he is working with the principals and the enrollment committee to assure that the enrollment is being equalized across the district.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Fike

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Confidential Secretary to the Chief Academic Officer