

EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, March 3, 2025

5:30PM

**Administration Office
Board Room**

Committee Members					Remaining Meeting Dates
X	Robert Kern - Chairperson		Lori Bali	Gene Marks	
	Gary Fedorcha - Co-Chairperson	X	Todd Breiner	X Sherri Molitoris	
X	Chad Christman	X	Michele Dotta	Scott Pyne	<i>April 7, 2025</i>
	Rhonda Frantz	X	Nichole Fink	James Schnyderite	<i>May 5, 2025</i>
X	Mathias Green		Bryan Geist	X Tania Stoker	<i>June 2, 2025</i>
X	Gale Husack	X	David Hauser	X Dan Williams	<i>August 4, 2025</i>
	Donna Kulp	X	Eric Hill		<i>September 2, 2025</i>
	Natalie Snyder	X	Matthew Link		<i>October 6, 2025</i>
	Angela Williams	X	Christopher Mann		<i>November 3, 2025</i>

Also in attendance: Steve Haas, Mary Frank, Allison Schaefer, Katja Bender, Andy Hassold

Agenda

- [25-26 District Calendar Proposal](#) (Dr. Link)
 - Administration and NLEA Leadership will discuss a framework for the structure of Virtual Instructional Days.
 - Calendar will be on the March Board Agenda for consideration by the full board.

- EF Tours - Summer 2027 Proposal to Greece (Dr. Stoker)
 - [Grecian Odyssey](#) (Itinerary and video)
 - Requested travel dates - June 24 through July 2, 2027 - 9 days
 - Approximate cost per student = \$4,359 (\$158/mth)
 - Approximate cost per adult = \$5,089 (\$185/mth)
 - Included – Round trip airfare, 7 nights of hotels with private bathroom, most meals (European breakfast and dinner daily, transportation on tour, 6

sightseeing tours and 1 walking tour with entrance costs (Acropolis; Acropolis Museum; Delphi site; Delphi Museum; pottery studio; Olympia site; Olympia Museum; olive oil tasting; Epidaurus; Mycenae; Temple of Poseidon), full-time tour director and expert local guides, 24 hour emergency services, and more

- Chaperone to student ratio is 1:10 for overseas trips

- **Connections OG in 3D expansion (Mrs. Dotta)**

- Extension of a research based program that is both Science of Reading and Ortin Gillingham based
- Accredited by the International Dyslexia Association
- Funded through 2024-2025 budget
- Committee supports the item moving to the March Board agenda for consideration by the whole Board.

- **Merlyn Grant (Dr. Stoker for Mr. Pyne)**

- Over the past several months, Mr. Pyne has mentioned in weekly updates that we have been researching an educational technology tool called [Merlyn](#).
- Merlyn provides teachers with a handheld AI-powered remote that allows them to control their workstation through voice commands, untethering them from the workstation while seamlessly integrating technology into their instruction.
- We learned about this opportunity through some research that Ms. Dunham was doing on a related problem, and we later learned that the company was working directly with the state of Pennsylvania to provide these to interested schools for five years at no cost.
- Early this fall we engaged a couple of volunteer teachers in a field test of the products.
- After field testing it with a couple of teachers and getting positive feedback, Mr. Pyne held a meeting with the company and confirmed the details of the grant, at the conclusion of which we have no further obligation. They will send us 100 Merlyn remotes and provide access to the software for five years, as well as provide ongoing professional development and support.
- If approved, we would begin planning for deployment with volunteer cohorts of teachers and determine further scaling from there.
- Questions about how each teacher would have the opportunity to use one if we are only getting 100. The committee discussed that nurses, school counselors, etc are included in the faculty count. Also, any teacher who is interested will have the opportunity to try one of the devices.
- Committee supports the item moving to the March Board agenda for consideration by the whole Board.