

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Citizen Advisory Committee

Attendees

School Board

John Gesiskie
Melanie Zipp
Matt Walters
Diane Serfass (Alt)

Ross (2)

Sandra Perry
Jennifer Rufo
Marsha Overpeck (Alt)

Polk (3)

Antionette Gravel
Frank Saffioti
Kristen Rudelitch
Jolene Pioli (Alt)

Eldred (2)

Timothy Hatcher
MariClaire Hosking

Chestnuthill (5)

Nicole Serrano
Lindsey Miller

Taisha Garcia
Amanda Pagano
Alison Fennell
Jeremy Livingston

Admin

Bernadette Fierro
Jonathan Ayre
Jason VanVorhees
Tammy Smale

Subject

○ Introductions

- There was an introduction of each of the citizens and board members on the committee. The four administrators reviewed their roles and responsibilities with the committee to help with directing questions/comments.

○ Comments / Questions

- Positive feedback from committee with respect to QR codes and password less entry for the computers as that is the direction technology is moving.
- Concern about the middle school students coming in with computers that are not charged when the only charging stations are located in the hallways. A request was made to provide teachers a couple of additional chargers per classroom so that students arriving without are able to charge while they are in class working.
 - Jason provided feedback that the stance on the chargers is that students were to come to school with their computers charged because they are trying to drive the kids to be more accountable, but he was unaware that is was creating an issue because he had not received that feedback. Will look into this.

- Concern about the applications available on the chrome books, what the apps are supposed to be used for and the terms of use for each application. The concern was round the privacy for the children and the camera usage.
 - Jason provided information that the child online protection list (COPA) of all approved applications on the website including usage and terms of service. If accessing through the Clever dashboard / portal, only approved applications will be available for use. If it is not there then it is not approved to be used.
- Question was raised around previously utilized learning management systems such as Reflex and iReady.
 - Jonathan responded about the learning tools and explained how improvements have been seen with iReady at the elementary and intermediate levels but improvements have not really been made at the middle school level. He indicated that the curriculum supervisors have recently attended an iReady conference and other schools are also having the same issue with iReady at the middle school level.
 - Additional feedback about iReady is that it is negative that it uses a fail first approach by giving a difficult question on the content to see if students know prior to teaching the content and then checking knowledge, making students feel bad for getting questions wrong. Multiple parents are supplementing this platform with Khan Academy with their kids first and then moving to iReady.
 - Additional feedback about the iReady, Reflect and Fractions doesn't seem to align with what is being taught in the class and there was a concern about the amount of time students are being required to spend on these applications as part of homework after using the applications during the school day as well.
- Jason talked a bit about the Clever dashboard and the usage analytics to determine what programs are being utilized the most and how much time is being spent on the applications. At this time the analytics are to support only usage and are provided to the administrators of the schools using each application and not as a measurement of teacher performance.
 - There was interest in whether this information could prove useful in helping to strike a balance between hands on work and computer work (like is one teacher using the application 10% of the time and another using it 90% of time within the same grades).

- There was a lengthy discussion around working collaboratively and in small groups so that students are getting more hands on and experiential opportunities over technology.
 - They would like to see more activities where kids are pushed to work together to learn how to better interact with each other and deal with difficult or challenging individuals to prepare them for the future
 - There was a discussion around role playing through social situations with the guidance counselors at the younger grades but that seems to become far less once the kids reach the 6th grade where they are only interacting with the guidance counselors maybe twice a year. There was interest around how we are engaging kids to work on their social skills at the higher grade levels.
- There was a question about the new ELA program and whether it is novel based or not? and if the student materials are digital or electronic
 - Bernadette responded and shared that the program we had been utilizing for years was a novel based program and we aren't achieving the results we would like to see so the new program is not novel based because we need to try something different to see if we can increase our performance by utilizing a different type of program. Bernie let the group know that the student facing materials are in print and the teaching materials are in the digital format.
- AI, technology and teacher training and continuing education credits on the use of technology
 - The team shared that there was training on the AI application this year with the teachers which is mostly around curriculum development. We discussed some of the challenges around continuing education and time constraints. There was a question around whether we could require the teachers to take continuing education credits related to technology. We discussed how we cannot force the teachers to take specific classes as a district and how the teacher contract can be a limiting factor on how much time is available for continuing education. We also discussed state mandated training and how those needed to be a priority for development time.
- AI guardrails, governance and architecture
 - Jason shared there is an approved policy with everyone that covers the usage of AI for student, faculty, training. In google classroom when the students submit their work there is an authenticity checker. This is not a single source to call a

child out on potentially cheating but it flags the entry for the student and gives the student an opportunity to address the issue prior to submitting their assignment. The program checks the assignment against AI as well as against what other students in the district are submitting so that siblings, friends, etc cannot use each others work. The policy is 815.1.

- There was also a recommendation to consider classes on the responsible use of artificial intelligence for students so that they can learn how to use it appropriately. There was another reference to usage of Khan academy for teaching students about this.

- Broadband access

- There was a discussion around virtual learning days their effectiveness and the ability of everyone in the district to access because they are supposed to be synchronous. The question was around whether the school provided support for people that may not be able to get access to internet for multiple reasons.
- Jason provided feedback that the school provides assistance and support with setup of the access and anyone missing virtual learning would not be doing so due to economic issues unless they are not asking for help.

- Community Questions

- There were three community questions around the data analytics

- The first was about the timing of getting rid of programs that are not being utilized and Jason confirmed that this would happen by the end of the year.
- The second was around the analytics and if it can detect poor performing students and Jason reiterated that Clever measures usage not performance of the programs
- The third was around whether there were analytics that were parent friendly and the response was that the clever data is not available for parent

- Upcoming meetings

- Date : June 4, 2025 6:30-7:30pm, July 9, 2025 6:30-7:30pm
- Next topic: Real World Skills