



# EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING

## AGENDA

August 11, 2025

Virtual Meeting - 8:30 A.M.

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Committee Members: Beth Fiore, Chair

Ellen DePinto, Paulo Lopes, Richard Pieros

Administrative Staff: Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent of Schools

Jason Bohm, SBA/Board Secretary

Rebecca Burns, Director of Pupil Services (abs.)

Dr. Stacey Brown, Humanities Supervisor

Sarah Pauch, Math, Science, Tech Supervisor

Anthony Tumolo, Special Projects Supervisor

Jim Belske, Technology Coordinator

### Agenda

1. Welcome Richard! Dr. Hart welcomed Mr. Pieros to the committee and gave a brief overview of the role of the Ed/Tech Committee.
2. Website Roll Over- Mr. Belske gave an update on the roll out of the new website, which took place over the weekend. The district had to migrate to a new site because our vendor merged with another company. The Tech department will continue to clean up any pages and links that were affected by the roll over. The major website enhancements occurred approximately 4 years ago, and with this migration minor adjustments were needed.
3. Curriculum Review  
Science K-5

The revisions to the science curriculum take place in grades 4-5 only (starting on pg. 41). The revisions include unit pacing and the change in primary source materials to Amplify Science.

#### Health 6-8

The revisions to Health grades 6-8 reflect the updates to grade-level content that were required due to the new schedule and new primary resource, a textbook titled *Teen Health*. There have been no changes to units related to sexual health, puberty, pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases. Those are unchanged. *Teen Health* is one textbook for all grades, but teachers will pull out units aligned to the respective grade level standards.

#### ELA All Grades Summary

Reduced documents to about 150 teaching points

Combined teaching points and removed others, guided by teacher feedback

Added mid-lesson teaching points to grades 6 and 7 for writing and grade 8 for reading and writing

Added teaching points to balance subjects within the document. More details below:

- Kindergarten:

Removed Unit 7: Tackling Hard Words (review unit)

- 1st Grade:  
Removed Unit 6: Reading Nonfiction (review unit)
- 6th Grade:  
Added teaching points focused on reflection  
Shifted Unit 5 from nonfiction to fiction and nonfiction work and created more of a multimedia focus
- 7th Grade:  
Added more specifics to teaching points  
Replaced more basic teaching points with more complex ones  
Moved lessons related to speaking and listening standards to be a second part of a reading-focused lesson
- 8th Grade:  
Changed Unit 1 (previously Contemporary Fiction & American Teenager) to Life Stories: Unlocking the Big Ideas in Book Clubs and Memoir: Structuring Personal Essays. The unit was contemporary fiction, and now focuses on memoirs, personally reflective writing styles, and an understanding of the human experience through reading  
Moved lessons related to speaking and listening standards to be a second part of a reading-focused lesson

Summary for ELA revisions in Grades 3-5

Change previous wording to- Added mid-lesson teaching points to grades 4-8 for writing

Add- Adjusted pacing guides. More details below:

- 3rd Grade  
Removed certain lessons or combined with other teaching points  
Added additional lessons for pronouns, figurative language, and point of view
- 4th Grade  
Removed certain lessons or combined with other teaching points  
Added an additional day for complicated teaching points
- 5th grade  
Writing unit 2: Feature articles to passion projects  
Removed certain lessons or combined with other teaching points  
Added an additional day for complicated teaching points

4. Reading Practice Review Committee Discussion- Dr. Hart reported the outcomes of the Reading Practice Review Committee that was formed after approval at the July 22 BOE meeting. The Committee met on July 29 and was comprised of teachers in Grades K through Middle School, as well as staff members from Intervention, RMS Library, and Administration. The Committee reviewed the Resource Materials Policy 2530 as well as the Homework Policy 2330 with the goal of establishing a process for a stronger more communicative process between home and school on independent texts that students are reading. They considered several mechanisms such as classroom inventories, book permission slips, and reading logs. Their recommendation was to implement a Reading Portfolio that carries through the child's school career, grade 3-8. This Portfolio would be a shared Google Doc where students input the books that they are reading. It is the parent's responsibility to check the log. The Reading Portfolio would not be graded. The Ed/Tech Committee Members asked several clarifying questions such as: would the Portfolio have anything on there indicating grade level of book? Dr. Hart said No. Parents should refer to sites such as Common Sense Media or MackinVIA for content and reading level. Is there a loss of instructional time? Dr. Hart mentioned that it may take more time to get this protocol started but once it's up and running teachers can have students add to their reading portfolio during a Do Now. He also mentioned that teachers could use this reading portfolio as an instructional tool. Can there be a checkbox for parents to opt out? Dr. Hart indicated something like this could be added to the dropdown

menu where parents mark the document as received. Can we track how often parents check? Dr. Hart and Mr. Belske thought the Activity Dashboard feature in the document would be the best tracking mechanism. The majority of Committee Members were pleased with this idea and feel that it will serve many purposes.

5. Upcoming Professional Development

- a. New Teacher Orientation - Anthony Tumolo shared the agenda for New Teacher Orientation scheduled for Aug 18-2. The district is excited to welcome these new staff members. Board Members have been sent invitations to attend a luncheon compliments of the HSA on the first day of orientation in the HBS Library.
- b. Welcome Back In-Service - Mr. Tumolo also shared the agenda for Welcome Back In-Service for all staff members beginning on Aug 27. Board Members are invited to breakfast provided by the RTEA, HSA, and Administration followed by Morning Kickoff Meeting in the HBS Cafeteria.

6. G&T, Honors and Advanced Programs Regulation - Dr. Hart briefly mentioned that the Gifted and Talented Students Regulation 2464 has been updated to reflect current selection criteria. The previous regulation referred to assessments the district no longer used.

Agenda items: Curriculum updates

Next Meetings: Sept 22 at 8:30, Oct 6 at 8:30