

CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

JANUARY 12, 2009

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

MINUTES

OPENING BUSINESS

Call to Order -- The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. in the Boardroom of the administration building.

Roll Call -- Members present: Mr. West, Dr. O'Connor, Mrs. Hersh, and Mrs. Smith.

Also Present -- Mr. Yingst, Mr. Bortner, Mr. Kauffman, Mrs. Lingg, Mr. Smith, Mr. Zeigler, Ms. McDermitt, Mr. Hershner, Mr. Wentz, Dr. Dillon, Dr. Doll, Mrs. Gunnet, Mr. Stahlman, Mrs. Frock, Mr. Klenk, Mrs. Dubbs, Mr. Samuelson, Wayne Topper, Elaine Kennedy, HEA; Jane Brown, HEA; Heather Faulhefer, Evening Sun; Linda Yowaiski, HPESPA.

3.0 CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

- a) **Board Policies** – At the request of the Board Policy Committee, the Curriculum and Technology Committee was requested to recommend Board approval of the tentative adoption to: **(enclosures)**
- 140.1 Extracurricular Participation by Charter/Cyber Students
 - 211 Student Accident Insurance

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Hersh had a question about policy 140.1 in regard to the cyber school paying for athletic participation. Mr. Wentz stated that it would be the cost to the student and would carry the cost to the Charter or Cyber School. The cost would be for transportation to events, uniforms, etc. divided by participants. Cyber schools are willing to pay the fee which is usually \$100-\$300 per student. In regard to 211 Dr. O'Connor wondered about picking up insurance for all students. Mr. Wentz stated that was voted on in the fall. The cost is very minimal in picking up all sports. In regard to 140.1 Mr. Smith wondered if a student was ineligible, left the school and then came back whether they could become eligible. Mr. Klenk stated that attendance and grading policy is still the same. Even though they are no longer a student of the district they have to establish attendance and grades on Thursday of each week. Mr. Smith wondered how long would they have to participate. Mr. Klenk stated that there is a two-week window. It takes ten days to get established. Mr. Smith wondered how many it applied to. Mr. Klenk stated that there were two right now but could involve as many as two more.

**CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2009**

2

COMMITTEE ACTION:

Mr. West made a motion to recommend Board approval for the board policies as presented. Seconded by Dr. O'Connor and approved by the Committee.

- b) **Program of Studies** – The Board was requested to approve the 2009-2010 Program of Studies for the high school (**enclosure**).

DISCUSSION:

Mrs. Hersh had a question about the schedule changes. Dr. Dillon asked the Board members with questions to e-mail questions to Dr. Dillon so they can be addressed since Mr. Lehman had to attend another meeting at the High School tonight. She will get everyone answers so the Program of Studies may hopefully be acted on at the next meeting.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

Mr. West made a motion to recommend Board approval for the program of studies as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Smith and approved by the Committee.

- c) **ESL Handbook** – The Board is requested to approve the Hanover Public School District ESL handbook (**enclosures**).

DISCUSSION:

Dr. O'Connor wondered how much time a day is devoted to ESL instruction. Dr. Dillon stated that approximately 45 to 90 minutes or just monitoring based on need. Dr. O'Connor stated that there should be no more than 90 minutes. Dr. Dillon talked about pull out and push in regarding ESL students. Dr. O'Connor wanted to verify that no school gives more than 90 minutes a day. Mrs. Smith stated that ESL students are difficult to schedule at the Middle School. Mr. Hershner states that it just gives them a head start with the teacher. Dr. Dillon stated that at the High School they participate two periods or less which would be less than the 90 minutes.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

Mr. West made a motion to approve the ESL handbook as presented. Seconded by Mrs. Hersh and approved by the Committee.

- d) **Science Curriculum** (submitted by Dr. O'Connor) – As a result of our poor performance in the 2008 PSSA Science test, in comparison to neighboring districts and:

In recognition that this district has not undertaken a comprehensive review of science curriculum and resources K-12 in at least 10 years:

The Board of School Directors, in its meeting of January 12, 2009, directs the Curriculum and Technology committee to solicit information and advice from pertinent teachers, administrators, and other sources, and to recommend to the Board of School Directors revisions to the district science curriculum in order to align that curriculum with the PSSA Science assessment. In addition, said committee shall recommend, within budgetary constraints, any additional resources that may be necessary to align the science curriculum.

**CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2009**

3

The Board of School Directors directs that the Curriculum and Technology Committee shall make such recommendations to the full Board no later than June 30, 2009.

DISCUSSION:

Dr. O'Connor noted that Hanover School District scored last in the PSSA Science results. We should be trying to find out what or how you teach in the first place. Does it match the PSSA test? He noted that the tests are heavily weighted in environmental and earth sciences. He is asking for help with the administration. Mrs. Hersh wondered about the paper which states when curriculum will be updated. Dr. Doll stated that science curriculum was rewritten this past summer. Mrs. Hersh stated that the PSSA scores are the first year and should be the basis. Mr. West stated that this is the benchmark and if you looked at the scores they were generally bad state-wide for the first year. The science curriculum was written to standards in 2002 after it was released. Science test at each level in the District was started to realign. Last year at the In-Service days teachers came in and started rewriting curriculum. The District is now starting to put the curriculum on the website through Firefly. He wondered if the Board could have access to the curriculum on Firefly. It could be a read only section. That way the Board would be able to see the science curriculum. Mr. West thought that questions should be asked of the Administration first before moving on something. Dr. Doll stated that the teachers met with the Administration in regard to math and science which are key areas. The teachers were the ones who helped write the curriculum. There was a patch on the math curriculum. They will need to follow up with the science curriculum and pull it all together. Dr. O'Connor noted that he didn't see any changes to the curriculum at the High School. It is not heavily weighted in Earth Science. Dr. Doll stated that there has been a movement in the last several years in flexibility. Students are able to take what they want in regard to those courses. He noted that the Middle School has had a great Language Arts movement when that became a focus. It has shown positive results. Mrs. Pam Smith stated that more time has been set aside for science, but social studies has suffered. Science aligns with the standards. There will be more time devoted to practice tests. Dr. O'Connor stated that the tests were process oriented. Science is usually taught on a factual basis. Mrs. Pam Smith stated that it is all geared toward process. We need to teach skills which is a higher level of thinking. We need to make science more hands on. Dr. O'Connor wondered what areas were lacking. Mrs. Pam Smith stated that the Middle School does teach environmental science but the High School is not her area. Dr. O'Connor stated that he is not seeing Earth Science on curriculum. Dr. Doll stated that we have to think about results and how it is being taught. Some essential questions are mapping at the end of the pacing charts. Mr. West stated that these things are being addressed reacting to data. A good thing would be to make curriculum available to the Board. Dr. O'Connor stated that the Board could be informed about textbook purchases. Dr. Doll stated that any new textbooks need to be approved by the Board. Dr. Doll stated that there is quite a bit of work to do. Mr. West stated that an amendment be made to the motion with no formal date and include all curriculum in general. Mr. Smith wondered if department heads in the elementary, middle school and high school meet. Dr. Doll stated that team leaders in K-12 meet to discuss alignment. There are teachers involved right now in ironing everything out. Mr. West stated that for the past six years the District has been focusing on aligning the elementary, middle school and high school curriculums.

**CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2009**

4

COMMITTEE ACTION:

Dr. O'Connor made a motion to recommend Board approval for the science curriculum proposal with the date removed. Seconded by Mrs. Smith and approved by the Committee.

- e) **One-To-One Laptop Initiative** (submitted by Dr. O'Connor) – The Board of School Directors, in its meeting of January 12, 2009, directs the Curriculum and Technology committee to solicit information and advice from pertinent teachers, administrators, and other sources, and to recommend to the Board of School Directors as to advantages and costs of implementing a *one-to-one laptop initiative*. This initiative is commonly meant to imply the provision of one laptop computer to each student and teacher in a certain building under such a protective plan that said students and teachers may take their computer with them to and from school.

The Board of School Directors directs that the Curriculum and Technology Committee shall make such recommendations to the full Board no later than June 30, 2009.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. West stated that he visited a District who had instituted the one-to-one laptop. It was a fascinating day. They have turned the school around but it is tough to keep the program going financially. It is very efficient but really expensive for maintenance, teachers and implementation on the infrastructure. This would not be a very good way to control the budget. Mr. Fry stated that the hardware is only half of the cost. The other part is in personnel and training. He had questions as to whether some of the buildings had the capability to support the program. He doubted whether Washington Elementary would be able. The computer changes the way things are done. It is a fundamental change. In order to have a full district implementation everyone must be on board. Dr. O'Connor stated that Kutztown did it only at the high school level. It changes entirely how teachers teach. It would instantly put our high school on top. It would save in textbooks, copiers, and maybe postpone remodeling. Mr. Fry stated that according to figures on paper and copiers would only cover a third of the program. Dr. O'Connor stated that it would also include the renewal of textbooks. Mr. Bortner stated that Apples are very expensive. He suggested a netbook, which would cost approximately \$350. He noted that a simple computer would be practical long-term. Students would be responsible at an earlier age. Students would be far ahead of other students. Mr. Fry stated that netbooks have dropped to \$500 to \$600 a piece. Mr. West stated that has been looked into. With the classroom of the future grant, we get something out. Mr. Fry stated that he can make information available to the Board. Numbers have come down. Dr. O'Connor stated that he hoped that we aren't last in the area. If students don't have something they need textbooks. It would only require a single burn of the hard drive. Mr. Fry states that it improves student engagement. Dr. O'Connor stated that he will amend to keep informed and take out the date. Mr. Smith said he leaned toward the other side. If we can't get books back, how we going to get a computer back. There are benefits of mobile carts. There was a question as to how Kutztown is doing after three years. Mr. West thought it is very effective but costly.

**CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2009**

5

COMMITTEE ACTION:

Dr. O'Connor made a motion to approve the one-to-one laptop initiative with the date removed. Seconded by Mrs. Hersh and approved by the Committee.

f) **Other Business** – None

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

THE NEXT CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 9, 2009, AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE BOARDROOM OF THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.