

**MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2008
BOARD ROOM
MINUTES**

PRESENT: **Committee:** Mrs. Nancy Galbraith, Mr. Fred Dewey, Mrs. Dana Kauffman, and Dr. Jeffrey Shapiro.

Administration: Mrs. Merle Horowitz, Dr. Connie Bompadre, and Mr. Stanley Piccara

Press: 0

Audience: 0

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER and 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mrs. Galbraith opened the meeting at 7:38pm, welcomed all in attendance and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 6, 2008 MEETING

Mrs. Galbraith stated that the minutes are approved.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mrs. Galbraith stated that there is an addendum to the agenda, a motion under item 7 to approve individuals to attend the Improving School Conference in Pittsburgh, PA.

5. DISCUSSION/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Technology Update

No comments were made.

6. ACTION ITEMS/MOTION

A. To approve the Paxon Hollow Middle School 8th grade Field trip to Hershey Park on June 1, 2009. The 8th grade field trip is co-curricular through math, English, and social studies. Students study the life of Milton Hershey and his enterprise. Math will evaluate velocity and design. English will be reading about the time period of big business and Hershey himself.

Mrs. Galbraith stated that this motion will be brought to the November Board meeting.

B. To approve the PHMS trip to the Pocono Environmental Education Center in Dingman's Ferry, PA leaving on April 15, 2009 and returning on April 17, 2009.

Mrs. Galbraith stated that this motion will be brought to the November Board meeting.

C. To approve the Letter of Agreement with Holcomb Behavioral Health Systems for the provision of D/A consultation in support of the Alternative Education Program. Holcomb will provide on-site services 2 days per week, 1 hour per day beginning September 19, 2009 and ending on the scheduled days during the week of June 9, 2009. MNSD agrees to pay Holcomb Behavioral Health Systems \$4,100 for these services.

a. The alternative Education Grant has provided funding (\$8,100) in the past. The same level of support is expected for the 2008-09 school year.

Mrs. Galbraith stated that this motion will be brought to the November Board meeting.

7. Action Items/Motions

a. To approve the following individuals to attend the Improving School Conference in Pittsburgh, PA from Jan. 25-29, 2009:

Culbertson Teachers, Heather Lyon and Donna Dickey have been invited (registration and lodging paid) to present at the Title I Improving Schools Conference in Pittsburg due to their building winning the \$5,000 Title I Academic Achievement Award. Toni Himes, the district reading supervisor and Title I coordinator, is also attending. Toni Himes' expenses will be covered through the Title I program. The team of Lyon, Dickey, and Himes will be giving a presentation on writing improvement at the conference.

Steve Subers will also attend the Improving School Conference with reading specialist, Andrea Fiorentino. Andrea Fiorentino's expenses will be covered by Title II funds and Dr. Subers' expenses will be covered by district funds. The Middle School has implemented several enhancements (such as changes in scheduling and Foresight testing) in the middle school reading curriculum that past attendees have seen presented at this conference.

Mrs. Galbraith stated that this motion will be brought to the November Board meeting.

Mr. Piccara stated that this team of Heather Lyon, Donna Dickey and Toni Himes who wrote this proposal received a \$5,000 grant and we are very excited about the opportunity for them to present at this conference. It should be a very great experience for them.

Mrs. Galbraith stated that she had an opportunity to speak to Andrea Fiorentino at Paxon Hollow. She is very excited and very thankful. I think this will be a good thing.

Dr. Bompadre stated that at the teacher in-service there were teachers scattered throughout the district and some attended out of district workshops as well. With the changes in state regulations, they expect you to not only do things within your content area, but also 50% in general content. With unified art staff, we tried to provide things that are very specific to what they teach in the classroom. We had both elementary and secondary teachers split half of the day focusing on curriculum areas around math, science, social studies, language arts, and special education teachers. All regular education staff attended the Chapter 14 and 15 regulations which was presented by Gabrielle Sereni. There was a lot of great feedback from her. In August, our principals, gifted support pupil services staff, and special education teachers were instructed on the changes in that law in August so we opened it up to the entire faculty. Everyone had to attend that half-day workshop. Mr. Piccara and I also met with the gifted support teachers K-12 throughout the entire day. We had a very small department, but they are a wonderful group to work with. It opened up a lot of dialogue with setting up meetings so that teachers can observe different levels so that we can get some feedback on how to improve the program K-12. Arthur Stevens met with special education teachers, speech, and psychologists to talk about the

evaluation process, IEP's, and different requirements based on what they learned in August. They had a great dialogue half a day doing that workshop. Chris Netter presented to librarians K-12 the United Streaming that now replaces the video and movie programs that were available to us a while ago. They came back raving about it. She is now going around to individual schools and opening that discussion up with faculty and showing them what the possibilities are. The feedback has been very good about that. Our CFS teachers at the High School got to work with Dr. Carpin and they worked a half day on technology. We also had elementary and secondary counselors go to an all-day workshop at Widener because they have already been trained in the special education program in August. Our PE teachers got to work together looking at how to graph the progress the students make around the BMI; at how to collect data district-wide and how to best report that. ELL teachers K-12 had a county writing workshop for a half day. Secondary foreign language attended a workshop at the DCIU in the afternoon. Our nurses went to a county-wide program that was hosted by Chester County IU, but held at Henderson High School in West Chester. The music department met K-12 and the art department met K-12.

Mr. Piecara stated that we now have 25 teachers involved in the High School CFF program. We have ordered the replacement orders for the new SmartBoards and projectors and our team of installers is waiting for that material to come so that we can get those classrooms up and running. The middle states validation team is here. They are running around every nook and cranny in the High School and meeting with all the groups. They have received our written self-evaluation. Their task is to validate that self-evaluation to see if we are actually doing the things that we are saying that we are doing. On Friday, the chair will give us a very brief oral report of the team's findings. The visiting team does not give accreditation. Accreditation is given by the middle states association. They issue a formal report to the middle states association of secondary schools and in the spring of this year, the middle states association will have a team that will read our self-evaluation again and read the validation report and then they will approve accreditation for another seven years based on that visit and the findings that are made at that visit. We are very excited about the process. I was talking to our internal co-facilitators and they are anxious, but optimistic about the process going through.

Mrs. Galbraith stated that she was at the reception the other afternoon. I met with the group as the advisory counsel and then again this morning at 8:00am. I never had as many questions asked of me in my life. I really think that they are feeling very positive by the questions that they were asking. Mr. McGinley really did a good job this morning. I thank him for coming.

Mrs. Horowitz commended the team for putting forth a wonderful document. I thank Mrs. Galbraith for serving as liaison for the Board. When I read it this past weekend, there were many insightful things shared. After this week is over and the panic and anxiety of the High School is done, I plan to meet with specific different people to talk about some of the comments that I read in the report. I think that there are things there that I learned from the various constituents about the school district. I learned things that I need to share with specific members of my cabinet that they would not have the opportunity to know. These are perceptions of teachers, of students, and of parents. I found it quite valuable to learn certain things that helped me understand directions I need to take this school district. I look positively to delve into that document and move ahead and to share with this committee and the rest of the Board where I hope to take this district.

Mr. Piecara stated that the members of this visiting team are to be commended for the work, time, and effort that they put into this process.

Mrs. Galbraith asked if the school will be given a hard copy of their report.

Mr. Piecara replied no. It is an oral report.

Mrs. Kauffman asked if Mr. Piecara will send an email of the highlights.

Mr. Piccara and Mrs. Horowitz replied yes.

Mr. Piccara stated that we do not get a copy of the oral report, but there is a recommendation that is made. You will probably receive a copy of your oral report when you get your final report which will be in the spring. We will be bringing the 200 Section of the new policy manual for everyone at January's meeting.

8. Adjournment

Mrs. Galbraith adjourned the meeting at 7:54pm.

Respectfully submitted by Heather Welsh, Confidential Executive Secretary to the Board.