

**MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, August 13, 2009
GAUNTLETT CENTER BOARD ROOM**

PRESENT: **Committee:** Mrs. Nancy Galbraith, Mrs. Dana Kauffman,
Dr. Jeffrey Shapiro

Board: Mr. Richard Sokorai

Administration: Dr. Merle Horowitz, Dr. Constance Bompadre,
Mr. Christopher Lee

Press: 0

Audience: 4

1. Call to Order 2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Galbraith called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., welcomed all in attendance and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Minutes of June 10, 2009

The June 10, 2009 minutes were approved by the committee.

4. Approval of Agenda

The agenda for August 13, 2009 was approved by the committee.

5. Discussion/Information Item

a. Technology Update – Mr. Chris Lee

Chris Lee said that many projects were worked on over the summer. Wireless laptops were put in buildings for students to use. Desktops are ready for students. Mr. Lee is waiting for the carts to arrive and they should be here before the start of school. The keys are bigger and were made more durable for the younger students. Mr. Lee also mentioned that the district has gone to a new Internet provider. This move will save the district \$7200 annually.

b. Summer Workshops

Dr. Bompadre gave the Board an overview of the Technology Workshops. The workshops were well received. There are plans to expand the computer lab (Room 220) to make way for more computers and a bigger lab space. Dr. Bompadre provided specific information about particular evaluations using My Learning Plan. There is the possibility of adding Field Trip forms to My Learning Plan.

c. Forestry Grant

The district was awarded \$10,000 a year beginning in 2005 and ending in 2010. Each elementary school receives \$1,000. The middle school receives \$2,000 and the high school receives \$5,000. The grant has provided many wonderful things such as gardens at some of the elementary schools, visits to wildlife sanctuaries, the Crum Creek Field Trip and pays for membership to the Crum Creek Watershed. The grant also pays for the Earth Balloon Presentation. The instructors are very engaging and cooperative. Dr. Bompadre invited the Board members to attend. Dr. Bompadre will share the schedule with the Board.

d. Elementary Report Card Survey

Dr. Bompadre gave the Board an overview of the Report Card Survey responses. She stated that she would like some direction from the Board. Dr. Bompadre did not receive any negative phone calls from parents regarding the 3 marking period report cards. Teresa Appleby, a teacher from Paxon Hollow said that she likes the 3 report cards. She feels that more information and data can be included. Mrs. Galbraith and Mrs. Kauffman said that they both like the 3 marking period/3 progress report card. Dr. Horowitz feels that 3 marking period report card is satisfactory or the district would have heard from parents.

e. Keystone Exams

Dr. Horowitz said that the prediction was that the State Board of Education would be approving the Keystone Exams and that it would be moving on to the Senate and House and Education Regulatory Committee for review. Mrs. Galbraith said that she has received many emails regarding the Keystone Exams. Dr. Bompadre believes that the Keystone Exams are intended to replace the PSSA's. Dr. Bompadre said that there has been concern over the PSSA's for eleventh grade students. Mrs. Galbraith felt that the PSSA should be more specific to whatever subject eleventh graders are taking. Dr. Shapiro supports the Keystone Exams. He feels that it will cause School Boards to pay more attention to the product that they put are putting out. He agrees with the concern about testing students at the appropriate times.

6. Action Items/Motions

- a.** The motion to approve the disposal of German textbooks and workbooks along with Spanish textbooks and workbooks was approved by the majority.
- b.** The motion to approve transportation for the Marple Newtown High School fall interscholastic athletic schedule was approved by the majority.
- c.** The motion to approve the Marple Newtown High School Cheerleader's trip to the UCA Cheerleading Nationals in Orlando, Florida leaving February 11, 2010 and returning on February 16, 2010 was approved by the majority. The team will miss only one day of school because the trip occurs over a holiday weekend.
- d.** The motion to approve a 2009-2010 calendar change designation Tuesday, November 3, 2009 as an Act 80 professional development day was approved by the majority. This will enable us to have one more student day in case of inclement weather. Mr. Sokorai asked what an Act 80 day was. Dr. Horowitz explained that an Act 80 day is for professional development. The students do not report to school but it still counts as a student day.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Paine