



Education Committee Minutes – September 26, 2016

7:05 pm – Verner Elementary School Library

In attendance:

D. DiPietro, L. Ashbaugh, J. Hackworth, D. Tompa, A. DiClaudio, J. Nehlsen, P. DiNinno, D. Zolkowski, M. Plance, E. Hewitt, N. English, T. Gaynor, R. Lyons, H. Hogate, R. Gourley, T. Conroy, J. Ross, D. Tsambis

Not present:

M. McClure, A. Loeffler, K.J. Walker

Dr. DiNinno commenced the meeting at 7:05 pm. She discussed requested field trips needing board approval and explained rationale for seeking board approval if the requests. The board agreed to conduct this business at the end of the agenda.

Dr. DiNinno reminded the board that the District has been examining and focusing on math needs in grades 5-8. She explained that she asked Mr. English to begin looking at math needs in grades 7 and 8 with the math teachers this year.

Mr. English shared information related to his review of math data indicating that students have been doing well on the Keystone test, improving in grade 7, but we are still seeking to understand math needs in grade 8 and are working to develop a plan to address these needs with the teachers. Mr. English explained that the plan will include targeted goals, curricular alignment, teacher professional development and Classroom Diagnostic Testing (CDT) support. He also discussed the need for a Junior High Team Leader supplemental position.

Dr. DiNinno reviewed the CDT Program being provided to the District by the IU and state at no cost. She indicated that the resource provide valuable training and support in the areas of grades 5-8 CDT data analysis, curricular support, and response to intervention techniques to assist with growing all students in the area of math; including those in need of remediation and those in need of enrichment. She explained that the initial training occurred and teachers shared that the training was helpful and practical. The teachers seemed enthusiastic about the levels of training and support they will receive.

Elementary principals indicated that they are seeing positive progress in grades 5 and 6 math. Last year, Everyday Math was implemented in 6th grade and seems to have had a positive impact. Teachers in these grades will also be included in the CDT program sessions.

Mr. English and Mr. Hewitt shared the updated High School Profile Sheet with the board. This information will be included with college transcripts so that colleges are able to see the academic rigor and quality of programming at Riverview.

Mr. Hewitt reviewed textbook needs in Economics and Social Studies. He requested that the board review the Economics textbooks in preparation for approval in October and shared that the teachers are requesting that the Social Studies textbooks be ordered next year when copyright dates are more current and they make sure the books align with the curricular content.

Dr. DiNinno reminded the board that professional development will focus on CDT support, targeted reports in EdInsight and a K-12 Writing Framework. She also reminded the board of the curriculum review cycle. Updates/Status

Mr. Hewitt shared that he and a group of students will present and attend the AIU Steam Showcase on September 27th. Administration indicated that the experience was valuable for our students and the results of the district receiving a STEAM grant last year.

Mr. Hewitt provided a summary of his research related to how other local schools calculate GPA and how colleges look at GPAs. He also recommended that we continue with the current system. He shared a presentation that included results of his research that included regional and state analysis, college review analysis, and samples of student GPA results using the Princeton, Standard, and College Board scales. Results of his research concluded that there is not one clear scale of choice used by local or statewide high schools, many colleges use their own conversion scales, Pitt and Point Park commended the district for using a more rigorous conversion, there is minimal advantage for some and a negative impact for other students (based on individual grades) if the District chooses to move to a different conversion.

A discussion with parents and board members occurred where pros and cons were considered and weighted regarding each scale. Mrs. Ashbaugh, Education Committee Chair, asked for each board member's input on the topic. It was agreed that more research on the matter would be conducted and the topic would be further discussed at the October Study Session.

A status on Open House was provided by the principals.

A short discussion about the Homecoming events and the parade occurred.

David DiPietro then called the meeting to order at 9:34 to vote on the topics of Field Trip approvals.

The following motions were presented and reviewed by the Superintendent for approval:

- **Cross Country Trip – October 2016**
- **Spring Band Trip - 2017**

The board then moved to take action on these items.

Superintendent's Report

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

CROSS COUNTRY INVIT/ MUSIC TRIP

Upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, Mr. DiClaudio moved that the Board approve the request by Mrs. Palma Ostrowski to take the RSD Cross Country Team to an invitational meet in Alden, New York, on Saturday, October 15, 2016, with a side excursion to Canada/Niagara Falls. The trip would follow solicitor recommendations

along with guidelines as established in the Riverview School District Policy #121, and the District would not incur any costs for the trip. In addition, Mr. DiClaudio moved that the Board approve the Music Trip to Toronto, Ontario, Canada, March 16 through March 19, 2017. The trip would follow solicitor recommendations along with guidelines as established in the Riverview School District Policy #121. Mrs. Tompa seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:34 pm

An Executive Session was held until approximately 10:15 pm