

Education Committee Minutes - September 24, 2018

7:00 p.m. – Verner Elementary School Library

Dr. DiNinno welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that the topics on the agenda included items focusing on academics.

Dr. DiNinno commended Mr. Kubistek for his leadership and support of our students within the Model UN Program. She shared the success students had and the valuable experience they had as part of the international trip that Mr. Kubistek started two years ago. Mr. Kubistek provided details pertaining to this year's international trip and sought approval to add an additional trip during the 19-20 school year in order to accommodate the talent and number of students who would benefit. The board acknowledged Mr. Kubistek's efforts and their support of the activities. A formal motion will be placed on the agenda in October to officially approve the trips.

Mr. Rizzo provided the board with an update on trainings, drills, grants and capital improvements associated with school security.

Mr. Zolkowski shared an update on the value being added to the 6 day cycle at the elementary level and the additional opportunities being provided to the students.

Mrs. Plance shared various opportunities and teacher collaboration time that is taking place during "What I Need" or WIN time. She explained that this customized time for students is also an opportunity for teachers to work collaboratively to support students and she looks forward to the additional supports that will be available. Dr. DiNinno reminded the board that Administration is currently examining fiscal needs and realities in preparation for the development of the 2019-2020 budget.

Dr. DiNinno and Mr. Hewitt provided discussion and conversation related to current non-mandated, Riverview programs indicating that it was important to learn about the costs associated with the value added from these programs. She explained that having these in September is important for budget development and decisions made in the spring.

- Graduation Gowns (students, staff)
 - This is a community tradition/treasure. Total cost is not significant. If changes were required by board: Senior Class could fundraise for student gowns and/or we could eliminate teachers wearing graduation gowns.
 - District cost for students' gowns last year = \$1,668.50
 - District cost for staff gowns last year = \$1,472
 - Total cost = \$3,140.50
 - Other schools: Leechburg-pays for kids, no teacher gowns; Burrell-\$25 for kids, no teacher gowns; Fox Chapel-pays for kids and teachers.

- AP testing registration
 - Total cost is not significant. We would not recommend any change here. AP scores are used to evaluate school districts. This encourages our kids to challenge themselves academically. We pay many of our athletic coaches this salary alone.
 - Cost to District for registration reimbursement:
 - 2017-2018: \$7,144
 - 2016–2017: \$6,695
- Summer Classes
 - We feel that we MUST have summer class programming. This impacts graduation rates and our children’s future. If board seeks a way to reduce costs, an option could be to eliminate or reduce the reimbursement piece. We could also consider asking principals to address student needs for reimbursement based on a confidential case by case basis.
 - Staff cost last summer: \$8,654.59
 - Student Reimbursement Cost to District:
 - Charged to students and held till pass (\$125) last summer:
\$125 X 22 = \$2,750
 - Reimbursement checks to passing students: \$2,125
 - \$2,750 minus \$2,125 = \$625
 - Average cost per student = approximately \$400
- Laptops – current school year
 - Money needs to be allocated for this equipment - whether it is 1 to 1 laptops or Computer Carts. At this time, principals prefer 1 to 1 and we continue to encourage BYOD.
 - District cost per laptop (includes pick up and return warranty for one year) = \$322
 - Each student is charged \$75 (this is time consuming and can be difficult to collect)
 - 78 laptops at \$322 = \$25,116
 - BYOD numbers: 3 students in 17-18; 5 students in 18-19

Approximate Total Cost to the District for all of the above four non-mandated programs annually = \$44,055

Dr. DiNinno reviewed the Strategic Plan Timeline and reminded everyone that the plan will be posted for public view and comment on the webpage. She also referred everyone to the tab on the website that contains a variety of informational documents associated with the process.

- Committee Meetings and Sub Committee Meetings have been held since last spring
- DRAFT created, using committee input, using PDE required document and summary forms
- DRAFT shared with Committee and Board
- DRAFT posted for public view 28 days
- Plan Needs Board approval at 10/22/18 Regular Voting Meeting
- Plan needs submitted to PDE for final approval

Dr. DiNinno acknowledged the special education staff for their collaborative spirit and support of our special education students. She commended administrators and regular education teachers for supporting the needs of our students. Dr. Monroe provided an update on Special Education programming including customized programs for students that have been successful, behavioral supports, a replacement behavior focus, and having staff who are in the right place so that their expertise and talents can be shared and best utilized.

Mr. Hewitt provided the board with a review of how conversions from the grading scale to the GPA were researched and decisions were made. HE explained the various research completed over the past few years including calls to colleges, inquiries at other schools, and the use of different conversations models using our own students' data. He then answered specific questions asked by various board members.

Dr. English reminded everyone that lap top distribution to ninth grade students will take place on 9/25 at 5:50 and a parent Naviance training session to support the exploration process will take place at 6:00 that same evening. He encouraged all parents to attend.

As the meeting was ending, Mrs. Wilton asked the board if she could speak. Dr. McClure agreed that she could address the board. Mrs. Wilton shared data that showed an increase in student participation in music programs over the years and asked the board to hire another music teacher. Several parents indicated that the current band director does not seem qualified as the marching band director. They also questioned the qualifications of the elementary band director. Additional concerns regarding the number of students on specific sports teams and the dollars spent towards coaches as compared to music. One parent asked the board to address the leadership of the band and PMEA certification. Another parent asked the board questions about meeting dates, how to find out more about the Strategic Plan, how to share input about the strategic plan, strategic plan timelines, how board decisions are made, and how long board members serve their term.

The meeting concluded at approximately 8:50 pm.