

Education Committee Meeting - MINUTES

September 23, 2019 – 7:00 p.m. Verner Elementary School

In Attendance:

Dr. McClure, Mrs. Ashbaugh, Mrs. Aughenbaugh, Mr. DiClaudio, Mr. DiPietro, Mr. Tillman, Mrs. Hurt-Robinson, Dr. Loeffler, Mrs. Schaaf, Dr. DiNinno

Mr. Hewitt, Mr. Rizzo, Mr. Zolkowski, Dr. Monroe, Mr. Pater, Ms. Chaparro, Ms. Drabicki-Bell, Ms. Wilton

Dr. DiNinno welcomed everyone to the meeting at 7:02 pm.

Mrs. Ashbaugh and Dr. DiNinno reviewed September 18, 2019 student enrollment data. They shared grade level totals at each building and across the district. Outside placement numbers were also shared. A copy of the data is included with these minutes.

Mr. Zolkowski shared information and held discussion related to several elementary school academic topics including:

- Kindergarten Orientation Books as a result of the Hi5 grant
- KinderTEK iPad Application program from a University of Pittsburgh grant/program.
- Universal Screening – SRSS – Student Risk Screening Scale obtained from professional development and awards earned through a SWBIS training
- Title I Services are provided from federal dollars allocated to the District and with established federal guidelines for how those monies can be spent. The District uses all Title I monies to staff additional support at Verner Elementary School. This year approximately \$185,000 is being used to provide teacher remedial support at Verner by paying for teacher salary and benefits. Verner operates a school-wide Title I program. A parent meeting will be held on October 1st to provide information on Title I Programming. All parents are encouraged to attend the meeting, which will be facilitated by Mr. Zolkowski.
- STEAM programming as a result of a \$35,000 PAsmart grant provides Professional Development for teachers and resources for students; particularly in grades 4, 5 and 6.
- New Textbook Resources in Social Studies and Music are providing our students with updated resources and teachers seem pleased with both resources.
- Dr. Loeffler shared a sample of the Dictionary that was provided by the Rotary Club for all grade 3 students in the District indicating she was thankful for the high quality resources.

Mr. Hewitt shared information and held discussion related to several secondary education academic topics including:

- AP class enrollment data – numbers are increasing and the district currently has 12 different AP classes.
- Math Curriculum / Committee / Pilot: Mr. Zolkowski and Mr. Hewitt shared information pertaining to the K through 8 grade I-Ready diagnostic tool and the anticipated Eureka math series. Both are being piloted this year. Last year, a teacher/ administrator team met to review math needs and recommended potential math resources. Feedback after piloting both math resources will be obtained to select a math resource program.
- Middle School schedule revisions made to support class size needs.
- A secondary Career Readiness update was provided. Mr. Hewitt shared that this curriculum has assisted with the use of the Naviance tool to track progress, college preparation needs, and scholarships using a planned scope and sequence.
- International Trip request and plans requested by French Teacher, Rachel Lipko

During the meeting Dr. DiNinno received word from Teacher, Michael MacConnell, that student leaders of the Riverview High School Key club, who were attending a gala in Pittsburgh, just received word that they were awarded a \$50,000 grant to design a learning space at Verner Elementary School. The students represented the only group at the gala who were being awarded funding - after submitting the STUDENT AUTHORED grant. All took some time to congratulate the student team and Mr. MacConnell. Some additional funding may be needed to support the project.

Dr. DiNinno, Mr. Zolkowski and Mr. Hewitt shared the positive progress being made through the use of new Professional Learning Communities across the District. They indicated that time for targeted teacher collaboration and leadership is now scheduled regularly and being used to monitor student learning, discuss needs, and to acquire appropriate resources to support learning.

Mrs. Ashbaugh and Dr. DiNinno reviewed a list of some of the grants the District has received this year. Discussion was held on the various ways the grants were acquired.

Informational sheets pertaining to many of the discussed topics reviewed during the meeting are included with these minutes.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:37 pm.

An executive session was held from approximately 8:40 to 9:00 p.m. to discuss a safety matter.