



Wyomissing Area School District

630 Evans Avenue, Wyomissing PA 19610

Curriculum/Technology Committee

Monday, May 7, 2018

Community Board Room

Committee Chair: Laurie Waxler

Committee Members: Karen McAvoy, Melissa Phillips, Chris McCaffrey

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Laurie Waxler, Karen McAvoy, Melissa Phillips, Maria Ziolkowski, Terrie Taylor, Susan Larkin, Rob Scoboria, Jessica Lengle, and Lynette Waller

Committee Members Absent: Chris McCaffrey

Public Attendees: Sign-in sheet attached

Meeting called to order by Laurie Waxler at 5:01pm

Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve the Curriculum and Technology minutes for Thursday, April 5, 2018.
- Vote: Motion Carried
- Resolved: Minutes from the meeting on Thursday, April 5, 2018 were approved without modifications.

Public Comment *[reserved for agenda items only]:*

Holly Feeney asked about the delivery of STEAM instruction at WHEC and the impact on other specials. She expressed that our music program is top-notch and wants the K-4 program to continue as a priority.

Patti Amin wanted to know if the STEAM class would be optional, or for all students and if the addition of STEAM would impact the cycle schedule.

Old Business

STEAM Innovation Update

WHEC

On April 20, the Kindergarten, 1st grade, and 2nd grade teachers at WHEC took part in the Apple Education introductory training session. The training emphasized how to integrate iPads into the educational environment. The teachers took part in hands-on activities and engaged with Apple educators while utilizing various applications on the iPad that will be used in the classrooms for creation, 21st century skill development, and collaboration.

WREC

THE STEAM Design Center open house was held on April 26, during the 6th grade wax museum. During the evening session, parents and students visited the STEAM Design Center and learned about the use of the space and resources in the room, while having the opportunity to use some of the materials available to students for instruction. Both parents and students expressed excitement for the spaces being developed for the 2018-19 school year at WHEC and the JSHS.

JSHS Proposal

The demolition of the wood shop in the JSHS for the renovation for the STEAM wing, began on April 26. So far the walls, flooring, lighting and piping have been removed. Mr. Cafoncelli will continue to provide updates as the project moves forward. We are also finalizing the Design Concept from Office Depot for furniture and storage solutions in the STEAM wing at the JSHS.

With the addition of the STEAM teacher at WHEC, we will now be providing STEAM instruction in each building. Our next steps include finalizing the instructional framework and sequencing for K-6 and continuing to work on the STEAM Pathways for the JSHS. After the Pathways work is completed, we will determine if any additional staffing is needed.

District administrators and staff will continue to participate in Career Pathways meetings with the BCIU and other participating districts. Mrs. Larkin asked which teachers represented our District at the most recent meeting? (Andy Siggins and Brian Liskey)

RACC Summer STEAM Program Pilot

The plans for the RACC Summer STEAM Program have been finalized. RACC will run two STEAM camps for rising 8th and 9th graders. The camps are a week long and held at the Schmidt Training and Technology Center. During the camps, students will participate in a project-based learning experiences in the RACC science laboratories. The areas of emphasis will include forensics, microbiology, engineering and Bio-technology. The "A" will be integrated throughout the week as the students create presentations on their project as the culminating activity for the camp. Parents will be invited to attend on the last day to view the presentations. WAEF is partnering with the District on this pilot program by underwriting a portion of the cost for student participation. Dr. Jones and RACC staff will hold a meeting with rising 8th and 9th graders to provide information about the program and distribute the program brochure and registrations. This information will also be emailed to parents. Mrs. Waxler asked if the District is providing transportation for students participating in the program? (Yes, we will have two stops, one at the JSHS and one at WREC)

New Business

Google Suite

Early this year we implemented the Google applications for staff use. The ease of use and collaborative nature generated inquiries from the faculty about using the applications with students at the JSHS. Our Technology Integration Specialists Nate Miller and Chris Nugent

provided training opportunities to the teachers interested in implementing the tools with their classes and the IT Department deployed the software to the student devices.

WHEC Enrollment, Class Size and Staffing

During the Finance and Policy committee meetings information was shared pertaining to student enrollment, class size and staffing. From a curriculum perspective, we are also monitoring student enrollment to ensure that we have adequate student resources to support instruction. District administration is reviewing enrollment data county-wide to see how WASD compares to other districts with respect to student enrollment. Mrs. Larkin shared the importance of making these decisions now so that we don't get caught trying to have to make adjustments in August. Mrs. Taylor expressed a concern about students coming from a small preschool setting and PA School Code requires a 1:22 ratio and anything over that, must have a teacher and an aide.

Work Outside of the Contract Hours

The committee reviewed the work outside of the contract hours for the 2018-2019 school year.

AP Environmental Science and Summer Reading

This is a new course for next year. In preparation for the course, the instructor reviewed five College Board recommended textbooks for the course and has selected the Environment Science textbook published by National Geographic. This resource was selected based on the ease of use for the digital platform, resources and researching capabilities. In addition, the design of the textbook is aligned to the AP exam and includes access to several AP exam support programs. The cost of the text is \$7,297.50 which covers the textbook, and access to digital text and resources for 6 years.

The students in this course will also be required to do a summer reading assignment of the book *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson.

Announcements: None

Next Meeting Date: Monday, June 4, 2018

Adjournment: 5:33pm by Laurie Waxler

Respectfully submitted by Lynette Waller, Assistant Superintendent