



Wyomissing Area School District

630 Evans Avenue, Wyomissing PA 19610

Curriculum/Technology Committee

Monday, June 5, 2017

Community Board Room

Committee Chair: Laurie Waxler

Committee Members: Susan Larkin and Maria Ziolkowski

MINUTES

Attendees: Laurie Waxler, Susan Larkin, Maria Ziolkowski, Jennafer Reilly, Julie Vicente, Lynette Waller, Scott Arnst, Jessica Lengle, and Stacey Hughes

Committee Members Absent: none

Public Attendees: Sign-in sheet attached

Meeting called to order by Laurie Waxler at 11:04 am

Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve the Curriculum and Technology minutes for Monday, May 1, 2017.
- Vote: Motion Carried
- Resolved: Minutes from the meeting on Monday, May 1, 2017 were approved without modifications.

Public Comment: Curt Minich expressed concern about the district creating a robust STEM Program.

Old Business

WHEC Gifted/STEM – Stacey Hughes

Mrs. Hughes provided the committee with an overview of Gifted programming at WHEC and STEM development at WREC and WHEC. As the gifted support teacher, Mrs. Hughes provides both pullout and push-in enrichment programming with students working collaboratively and on individual projects. Earlier this year, she implemented the Noetic Math Challenge to build on students' problem solving skills. Additionally, she supports students in math classes to provide additional enrichment and

acceleration. The Noetic Math Challenge is available for students qualifying for gifted support services in grades 1-4. Flexible grouping in math classes is available for all students in grades 2-4. Mrs. Hughes also wrote a WREC grant for a mobile maker space which was used for math carnival day and science day. During the school year, she worked to ensure that teachers knew how to use the mobile makerspace materials prior to use with students.

JSHS Course Additions

The Computer Science department is recommending Comprehensive Microsoft Office 365 Word 2016 and Excel 2016 as the textbook for the new Applied Computers course. The Computer Science department chair, is working with the vendor for the final cost. Once we have that information, the text will be presented on the board agenda for approval. This is a newly added course, the cost of the text will come from the Curriculum fund balance.

ESL – PA Dept. of Education Updates

In accordance with federal law related to the rights of an English Learner (EL), the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has amended its opt-out policy. A parent of an EL student may now choose to decline a child's placement in an English Language Development program or opt-out of specific components of that program. As a result of this change, the district will update the home language survey and language use survey that parents complete during the registration process. Beginning in 2018, foreign exchange students will now be identified as English Learners. As a result, they must receive English Language Development services and will be included in district accountability for PSSA, Keystone and WIDA.

STEAM Innovation - Update

The STEM wing in the JSHS will be discussed at the next facilities meeting to be held on June 6. Justin H. Istenes from AEM Architects will present the JSHS STEM Lab Renovations Project Timeline. The next STEM Ad Hoc Committee meeting will be held on Friday, June 9.

STAR 360

STAR 360 is a screening and progress monitoring tool for reading and math. It will enable teachers to screen students for their current performance levels and to progress monitor students receiving intervention support services. STAR 360 is aligned to PA Common Core Standards and will enable teachers to monitor students' progress toward state standards throughout the year. The assessment takes approximately 20 minutes to administer and teachers have access to the data as soon as the

assessment is complete. Along with the assessment results, teachers get a screening report for the grade level, class and individual student performance. Teachers will also receive an instructional planning report containing the foundational skills that students know and the skills which should be taught next. In addition, STAR 360 will generate a parent report for teachers to share with parents. The district has requested for BCIU to negotiate consortium pricing with the STAR 360 vendor, Renaissance Learning. The cost for STAR 360 will be paid for out of curriculum fund balance. We are also anticipating cost savings through the elimination of other assessment programs during the 17-18 and 18-19 school years.

New Business

Wyomissing Area Mountain Bike Team

Dave Aurentz spoke to the committee about starting a Wyomissing Area mountain bike team. The team will need a grass field on which to practice mountain bike handling skills. He has been in contact with the Wyomissing Borough Parks and Recreation Board to inquire about using Wyomissing parklands to conduct riding practices. Mr. Aurentz requested to distribute flyers to students in Grades 6-12.

Work Outside of the Contract Hours

The work outside of the contract hours were adjusted to incorporate hours for the Summer School Monitor. No additional hours were added. The hours needed were taken from RTII and reallocated for Summer School Monitoring.

World Language – Spanish Level 3 and 4 Entre Culturas Textbook

Earlier this school year, we purchased a new text for levels 1 and 2. In an effort to provide continuity of instructional programming, the Spanish department is requesting a new text for Spanish 3 and 4. The new text is titled, *Entre Culturas*. The *Entre Culturas* is aligned to national standards and the World-Readiness Standards for Language Learners. In addition to being standards based, it is thematically organized and emphasizes communication, exploration and connections across cultures. The cost of the text and online licenses is \$4532.84. This is a budgeted expense for the 2017-2018 school year.

Cooking Club

Currently the Cooking Club is offered to students in grades 7-12. For the 2017-2018 school year, club advisors are anticipating a large number of junior high students interested in joining the club. Therefore,

the advisors are requesting to split the club into 2 clubs; one for grades 7 and 8 and the other for grades 9-12. There would be no additional cost to split into 2 clubs.

Homebound Instruction

We have a student who is in need of instruction in the home. The first request is for instruction in the home from May 31, to the end of the school year. The second request is for ESY instruction in the home during the summer.

Announcements

The Physical Education Department has submitted a WAEF grant for a Polar Go Fit Project. The grant request is for Polar A360 Strapless Heart Monitors, Polar Go-Fit Online Software and Virtual Online Training for physical education teachers. The heartrate monitors will be used by students at the JSJS during physical education class. The monitors will communicate via Bluetooth to a teacher iPad to monitor and display each student's heart rate during lessons. The goal of the project is to have students learn about healthy levels of cardiovascular activity.

Adjournment: 12:44 pm

Next Meeting Date: Friday, July 28, 2017

Respectfully submitted by Lynette Waller, Assistant Superintendent