



# Wyomissing Area School District

630 Evans Avenue, Wyomissing PA 19610

## Curriculum/Technology Committee

Thursday, September 28, 2017

Community Board Room

Committee Chair: **Laurie Waxler**

Committee Members: **Susan Larkin and Maria Ziolkowski**

### Meeting Minutes

**Attendees:** Laurie Waxler, Maria Ziolkowski, Jennafer Reilly, Scott Painter, Sandy Reese, Lynette Waller, Scott Arnst, Jessica Lengle

**Committee Members Absent:** Susan Larkin

**Public Attendees:** Sign-in sheet attached

Meeting called to order by Laurie Waxler at 11:01 am

#### Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve the Curriculum and Technology minutes for Thursday, September 7, 2017.
- Vote: Motion Carried
- Resolved: Minutes from the meeting on Thursday, September 7, 2017 were approved without modifications.

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

Fourteen community members addressed the committee during public comments. Five were in favor of removing *The Handmaid's Tale* as a choice on the Summer Reading List. Nine were in favor of retaining *The Handmaid's Tale* as a choice on the Summer Reading List.

#### Old Business

##### **Technology Integration Update**

All students at WREC and JSHS received their devices the first week of school. We also redeployed laptops to WHEC for the start of the school year. The process for new students receiving devices and managing student technology concerns or devices has been streamlined to increase the response time. The Tech Department has also corrected glitches with eSchool integration and the use of Pearson products on the iPads.

We have developed a list of resources needed to begin to outfitting the STEAM Design Center at WHEC. We are in the process of reviewing the resources for grade level alignment to instruction. We will move forward sharing the list with WAEF and determine a timeline for implementation. At WREC, we have met with Office Depot to discuss storage and furniture needs for the STEAM Design Center. Staff at WREC are reviewing the first draft of possible design center solutions. The Computer Science teachers at the JSJS have had a second opportunity to review the architect renderings for the STEAM Design Center at the JSJS. Additional information will be provided during the Facilities meeting.

### **STEAM Innovation Update**

In August, the District launched the STEAM page on the district website to communicate our progress with STEAM initiatives to staff, parents and community members.

With the goal of creating a makerspace in all three buildings, we transitioned the computer lab at WREC into a makerspace for student innovation and design. The room contains all of the STEAM materials provided by WAEF along with donated materials. Teachers can take students to the room to use the materials or sign items out for use in their classroom. The STEM teacher has developed lesson plans and activities aligned to Standards, to support the use of the materials. Teachers will participate in training sessions to learn how to incorporate the materials into their instruction.

At WHEC, materials and lesson plans are available for classroom use, including robots and Breakout Boxes. There is a need for additional STEAM materials. We will determine the materials needed to introduce STEAM instruction. At the JSJS, the District is scheduling a follow-up meeting with AEM architects and the Computer Science department to see preliminary renderings for the STEM wing renovations.

A recommendation was made to consult with RELATE, INC. to develop a STEAM plan summary plan and summary presentation for the STEAM Advisory Committee.

### **STEAM AD-HOC**

The STEAM ad hoc teachers planned and facilitated the first professional development session held on September 27. During the session, K-12 teachers were introduced to inquiry based learning through experiencing Break-Out Boxes. In order to break out, the teachers had to communicate, collaborate, utilize critical thinking skills and demonstrate creativity.

### **STEAM Summary Plan**

Mr. Rob Szurgot, RELATE, Inc. presented the STEAM Summary Plan, identifying the proposed framework for the WASD STEAM program. The Summary Plan outlined the design center concept, highlighting the core areas of the proposed differentiated STEAM Program including the goal, design thinking methodology, curriculum, staff, facilities, technology and opportunities for community support.

### **New Business**

#### **Summer Reading Options**

Mrs. Waller shared background information on the inclusion of The Handmaid's Tale as one of the choices for summer reading. The Handmaid's Tale was approved as a summer reading option by the WASD Board of Directors in 2008, for the 11<sup>th</sup> grade Honors English course for summer reading. The students in this course, are required to read the Scarlett Letter. The students have two options for the

second book to read. They must choose between *The Handmaid's Tale* or *Grendel*. Both choices are a modern reimagining of the *Scarlett Letter* and *Beowulf*, which are texts covered in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. *The Handmaid's Tale* is also on the College Board's AP Literature book list and has appeared on the AP literature test as an option to write about. The assignment for the course is to read the book over the summer in preparation for the Choice Book Project. The Choice Book Project is an activity to create a product that demonstrates how a theme in the novel is reinforced by at least three other elements or techniques within the text (setting, character, plot, style – narrator/tone/point of view, conflict, symbolism, irony, etc.). Mrs. Waller shared that after discussing the concern expressed with the appropriate school level staff, the following course of action is recommended. The English teachers will provide a revised description of the optional books offered to students for courses requiring summer reading so that parents and students can make an informed decision. The teachers will also increase the number of optional summer reading books offered from two books to three books. This response is in alignment with Board Policy 109.

**Transportation Request**

The Music Department submitted a request for a two-day trip to New York for members of the Chorale. Approximately 50 students will be participating. The students will participate in a theatrical workshop with actors and actresses from either the *Lion King* or the *School of Rock*. The students will also perform at the United Nations and have an opportunity to tour One World Trade Center and the Museum of Art.

**Announcements:** None**Next Meeting Date:** Monday, October 30, 2017**Adjournment:** 1:05pm

Respectfully submitted by Lynette Waller, Assistant Superintendent