



EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 19, 2024

Virtual Meeting - 8:30 A.M.

Committee Members: Beth Fiore, Chair

Paulo Lopes, Randall Peach, Carolyn Podgorski

Administrative Staff: Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent of Schools

Staci Beegle, Director of Pupil Services

Jason Bohm, SBA/Board Secretary

Dr. Stacey Brown, Humanities Supervisor

Sherry Krial, PD/Tech Supervisor

Sarah Pauch, Math, Science, Tech Supervisor

Anthony Tumolo, SEL Supervisor

Jim Belske, Technology Coordinator

Guests:

Tim Charleston, RMS Principal; Paul Nigro, HBS Principal; Dr. Ann DeRosa, WHS Principal; Dr. Bengals, WHS Teacher; Dr. Kristen Higgins, TBS Principal (agenda item #1)

Minutes

1. School Building Schedule Revisions

K-3 - Dr. DeRosa, Dr. Bengals, and Dr. Higgins presented the K-3 proposed schedule beginning in September 2024. The goal of the new schedule is uninterrupted Math and ELA blocks while providing the contracted 300 minutes of teacher prep time per week. With stakeholder engagement, WHS and TBS created a K-3 scheduling committee. The new schedule will have 50 minute blocks for specials; grade levels will have specials at the same time for more consistency and in line with developmental needs. Computer class will become more of an integrated STEM period. Lunch will be closer to the middle of the day with grade levels slightly overlapping in the cafeteria. The new schedule also allows for more flexibility in the day for intervention.

RMS - Mr. Charleston presented the RMS schedule. The RMS scheduling team was made up of teachers and Administrators. Parents and Stakeholders were also asked to give input throughout the years-long process. The scheduling team conducted site visits and solicited schedules from surrounding districts and counties. Periods will be 42 minutes long, with 4 academic periods in morning, 4 in afternoon. One period for lunch, recess (everyday), and flex time in the middle of the day will be a 64 min block. 7:25 is the entrance bell, dismissal is at 2:30. The schedule will be on a 4 day rotation cycle, one period drops each day allowing for students to have core classes at different times of the day. All core classes will be seen daily with math and ELA on a double/single block rotation. No more academic support block. There will be 8 encore slots, 2 a day for each student, with new encore options introduced. This schedule allows for more flexibility for intervention instruction.

HBS - Mr. Nigro spoke of the HBS schedule which was changed in the beginning of this school year. With input from various stakeholders and supervisors, HBS has been on a 6 Day schedule which is working well. There will not be significant changes to next year's schedule but included is dedicated time for intervention and an enrichment period at the end of the day.

2. Health/Sex Education Letters - Ms. Pauch shared that Health/Sexual Health Education letters will be going out to parents and guardians on Monday April 22nd for grades 2,4,5,6,7,8. Parents and guardians will have 2 weeks to fill out the opt-out form if they do not want their child to attend these lessons. Sexual Health Instruction will begin mid May.
3. Math Department Report - Dr. Hart presented a report with Ms. Pauch about middle school math, particularly 8th grade instruction to see where improvements can be made to fully return to pre-COVID achievement levels. Using data shared by Hunterdon Central of current 9th grade Readington students, Ms. Pauch and Dr. Hart found that Readington students are performing similarly to the students of other districts on the PSAT exam. Additionally, Readington students have a high success rate of passing freshman courses. Only 6 students changed math courses in high school this year, with 4 moving up levels and 2 moving down. To ensure that the growth trajectory is sustained in the area of math, particularly in middle school, the district has implemented several notable action steps. These include personnel adjustments, professional development, a schedule change for the middle school, and exploring new resources. The new RMS schedule will provide students with more time for math (from approximately 215 minutes/weekly to between 301-344 minutes/weekly based on a rotating schedule). The increase in instruction time will allow for small group personalized instruction. The district is currently using Big Ideas curriculum which is what Hunterdon Central also uses, however with the new math Standards, the district (and Central) are looking at other resources such as EdGems to potentially pilot a unit for 2024-2025. The district is also working on identifying resources and teaching strategies for multilingual learners.
4. Quarterly Tech Update - Mr. Belske updated the committee on the Technology Department projects and initiatives which include a Network switch refresh, RMS front office renovations, RMS Cafetorium Performances Sound System, WHS Computer Lab, Preschool room renovations as needed, whiteboards, and a move of the district website over to FinalSite for 2024-2025. Additionally, the district will continue to update video camera server & software for greater storage capacity and faster video retrieval. Lastly, the district received a NJ Cyber Security Grant for cyber security enhancements.

Next Meeting: May 20, 2024