



EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 31, 2024 (rescheduled from Jan 17, Jan 19)

Virtual Meeting - 8:30 A.M.

Committee Members: Beth Fiore, Chair

Randall Peach, Carolyn Podgorski (absent), Christina Napoli (absent), Jennifer Wolf

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

Colleen Ogden, Summer Enrichment Coordinator (item #1)

Agenda

1. Summer Enrichment - Ms. Ogden proposed updates to the Summer Enrichment program, which will be held during the weeks of July 15 and July 22 this year. She is recommending creating different content in each course offering, so students can attend both weeks in a summer as well as consecutive years without repeating content. This came about through feedback from prior participants. Each course will have curriculum written for 4 sections. There will be a supply list and recommended vendors list to make purchasing and facilitating easier for instructors. The curriculum writing will be funded through registrations, there is no impact to the budget. Summer Enrichment is a self-funded program.
2. Board Goals:
Goal 2. Improve the use of data to monitor progress and drive decision-making. The Board discussed a mid-year iReady report and asked administration to look into getting the report to compare year to year.
Goal 4. Create the supports and structures for a sharp, clear focus on academic achievement (i.e., remove barriers that take focus away from education) while continuing the integration of Social Emotional Learning across the curriculum and providing equitable access to mental health supports as needed for our students and staff.
3. Spring Teacher Academy - Mrs. Krial gave an update on Spring Teachers Academy. Course offerings have been coming together nicely. List of facilitators will be approved at Feb Board Meeting.
4. Parent Academy: Mrs. Krial also gave a report on Night of Discovery March 20, 2024 6-8pm at Holland Brook School, the District's second annual Parent Academy. The purpose of Parent Academy is to showcase what the district is doing and to build partnerships with parents and community members. So far, there are 18 proposals for sessions from teacher facilitators and community leaders. There will be student performances, a keynote speaker, and refreshments provided by RTEA in addition to the parent sessions.

5. March In-service Day - Teacher facilitator approvals will be on Feb Board Agenda for the March 15th In-Service Day.
6. Curriculum Department Tentative Budget Priorities - Curriculum Writing - Ms. Pauch and Dr. Brown gave overviews of the new Math and Language Arts Standards from the State. This new Curriculum will need to be approved in the September BOE meeting, so it will come before the Ed/Tech committee in August. Many of the Standards that were added by the State were already incorporated in the District's curriculum documents, so there should not be drastic changes for the departments.
 - i. Math - Within Math, the biggest update is separating out of Measurements as its own domain. A new domain was created called Data Literacy. Within Data Literacy domain, things like coins and bills were added in K-2, our district was already teaching that. In K-5 the fluency Standard will be revised to emphasize "accuracy and efficiency" instead of speed. In 8th grade, new Standards will include radicals and irrational numbers. 4th, 5th, and 8th grades had the most number of new Standards, but not huge changes from what the District was already teaching.
 - ii. ELA - New Standards for Language Arts are broken down into Language (Vocabulary, phonics, spelling, grammar), Reading (text structures, close reading, analysis of argument, comparison to texts), Writing (argumentative writing, narratives, writing process, writing research, sources of evidence), and Speaking/Listening (participation, evaluate speakers). This district has already been incorporating most of these changes in the curriculum. Cursive writing is not in the new Standards, however the committee members recommended exploring if there is a way to incorporate it into the curriculum for 3rd Grade. The District is looking into pilot programs for Handwriting K-2 and will also look into programs for Cursive.

Purchase of new and revised curricular materials: Dr. Brown recommended new ELA curricular materials called Units of Study for Reading Grades K-2 by Heinemann Publishing. It is aligned to revised Learning Standards, NJ RAPID Training, and Science of Reading Research. Includes time to practice skills with authentic texts and decodables, robust resources for small groups, Multi Language Learner instruction, Digital and print resources for teachers and students.

Tabled for further review:

The Committee ran out of time so this discussion was tabled until next meeting for further review, along with:

- b. Amplify Science 6-8, Ready Classroom for Math K-5, World Language Spanish and Chinese 6-8*
- c. Reflect an increase in stipend payments for curriculum writing consistent with RTEA contract*

7. YMCA Clubs Spring 2024 - Classes are open for registration. Most are already at capacity. There is one Writing class at HBS that may not have enough participants to run.

Agenda items: fundraisers, curriculum writing for Summer Enrichment, March In-service Day Facilitators

Next Meeting: Feb 29th 8:30am