

Education Committee Meeting

March 11, 2014

6:30 PM

Minutes

Attending: Raeann Lindsey, Chairperson

Matt Cesario

Annie Shaw

District Liaison: Dr. Kathy Foster

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Ms. Lindsey. These items were discussed:

- **Assessment Update**
An update was provided on the assessment that are schedule over the next several months. The Reading and Math PSSAs are scheduled for March 24 – March 28. PSSA Writing is scheduled for April 7 – 11, while Science is scheduled for April 28 through May 9. Keystone Exams are planned for Algebra I, Literature, and Biology during the assessment window period of May 12 – 23. The Stanford Achievement Tests will be administered beginning the week of April 21. PA Dept. of Education allowed for the assessment windows to be extended for the PSSA Reading, Math, and Writing, and for the Keystone Exams.
- The Program of Studies at the High School has been updated. Suggestions were made as to other improvements for the Program of Studies including the addition of graphics which reflect what a sample schedule might look like. The number of credits required for graduation are indicated can be found in the Program of Studies.
- AP Psychology and AP statistics are being added to KOHS beginning in the fall of 2014. Other additional AP classes are being planned for 2015.
- With the passage of Chapter 4 on March 1, the graduation requirements have been changed. Appropriate changes are being made in the Graduation Policy. Literature, Algebra, Biology, Composition, and Civics/Government will be the five content areas eventually required for graduation. Keystone Exams in Literature, Algebra I, and Biology will serve a dual purpose as both graduation requirements and for state accountability as required under federal law. The exams are stand-alone proficiency requirements for graduation. Classes of 2017 and beyond are required to score either proficient or advanced on the Algebra I, Literature, or Biology Keystone Exam or complete a project-

based assessment. Class of 2019 will have to pass the Composition Exam and the Class of 2020 will also need to pass the Civics and Government Exam.

- The Teacher Effectiveness Evaluation Model will have the addition of Student Learning Objectives for the 14-15 school year. Administrative training sessions are being held in March and April.
- Olweus Bullying Prevention Program is being started at Dormont Elementary this spring with a kick-off assembly on March 28.
- STEAM Classroom will have the addition of a robotics curriculum for the 14-15 school year. A 3-D Printer was ordered using the remainder of the STEAM grant which has now been exhausted for this year.
- Additional dates have been added for Kindergarten Registration, and an evening program for parents will be put on by the kindergarten staff and Dr. Foster in May. The program will be entitled kick-off to kindergarten.
- There will be an Extended School Year Program for special education students in the District this summer. The reason for beginning an in-house ESY program last summer was to better implement the IEPs of students so they are able to maintain IEP goal progress. In addition, there is a cost savings when educating students in our own program. Goal progress is readily know at the end of the program rather than receiving information for some independent ESY programs as late as October of the following school year.
- Crisis Prevention Intervention Training using the Train-the-Trainer model is needed so the District can adequately provide training to staff. Local training is scheduled for mid-May in Pittsburgh. One staff member has already indicated an interest in attending. Cost is approximately \$2300.00 for the four day seminar.
- The athletic trainers, Heather Kinney and Guy Sanchioli, applied for Safe Sports School designation. A comprehensive self-study was completed. The Board will be notified when their application is processed and a determination on the designation is made. A brief overview of their standard operating procedures and overview of their program will be presented at an upcoming Board meeting.
- Dr. Foster contacted Russ Foster from the AIU facilities department regarding the Head Start rental contract that was recently received in the District. After consulting with Dr. Stropkaj, another contact was made by Dr. Foster, indicating that the District was increasing the rent for the classroom from approximately 2200.00 per year to 4500.00 per year. There had been no rental increase since 1996.

- Additional AED signage has been ordered to supplement what now exists. Nurses will be contacted about speaking at building faculty meetings regarding the location and use of AEDs in each building.
- Dr. Foster will investigate obtaining Epi-Pens for each building using resources provided through Mr. Cesario. A physician's order will be needed to obtain these from Mylan Laboratories.
- A review was done of how administrators utilize PSBA services.
- At the request of Ms. Lindsey, the Education Committee received comparative information on the number of students attending charter schools, including cyber charters, for both last year and this year. Mr. Cesario requested information on how the attendance breaks down by grade level. Dr. Foster will provide the Committee with this information.
- Ms. Lindsey discussed an interest in possibly instituting an elementary strings program. She indicated that much research exists on the relationship of learning to play a string instrument with success in academic areas. She volunteered to check and see how many Districts in the surrounding area have an elementary strings program.

The Education Committee Meeting concluded at 8:45 PM.