

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

March 26, 2018

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Joseph Colosimo, Chair

Mr. Michael Zamborik

Ms. Elizabeth Huffman, Serving as Committee Member Pro Tem

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Mary Passinger

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Jeffrey Labesky	Mr. Rick Gignac	Mr. James Case
Mr. Paul Mangione	Ms. Sue Turner	Mr. Shannon Yeager
Ms. Donna Zariczny	Mr. Mike Kiehl	Mr. Jeff Flickner
Ms. Amy Stewart	Mr. Roger Tubbs	Ms. Amy Stimmell
Mr. Norbert Kennerknecht	Ms. Melissa McLean	Ms. Liz Kent
Mr. Gary Weber	Ms. Ruth Huck	Ms. Shelly Wagner
Mr. Jim Grosch	Mr. Brian Ferry (WTO)	Ms. Amy Beers
Ms. Rhonda Decker	Mr. Brian Reynolds	Ms. Lisa Smith
Dr. Patricia Hawley	Ms. Ericka Alm	Ms. Leslie Bloomgren
Mr. Jim Grosch	Ms. Marcia Madigan	
Ms. Rhonda Decker	Mr. Glenn Smith	
Dr. Patricia Hawley	Ms. Jennifer Hobbs	Members of Public 2

1. Opening Activities

1.1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Joseph Colosimo, Chairman at 6:06 PM.

1.2 Public Comment – None

2. Old Business – None

3. New Business

3.1 **Health 7 Planned Instruction Revision**

Planned Instruction was updated for a new textbook.

**Discussion:** There was no discussion.

**Action:** Forward the motion to the Board meeting on April 9, 2018.

**Motion:** That the Board of School Directors approve **Health 7 Planned Instruction Revision**, as presented.

3.2 **Health 7 McGraw-Hill Education Textbook Quote**

**Discussion:** There was no discussion.

**Action:** Forward the motion to the Board meeting on April 9, 2018.

**Motion:** That the Board of School Directors approve the **Health 7 McGraw-Hill Education Textbook Quote**, as presented.

3.3 **Health 9 Planned Instruction Revision**

Planned Instruction was updated for a new textbook.

**Discussion:** There was no discussion.

**Action:** Forward the motion to the Board meeting on April 9, 2018

**Motion:** That the Board of Education approves **Health 9 Planned Instruction Revision**, as presented.

3.4 **Health 9 McGraw-Hill Education Textbook Quote**

**Discussion:** There was no discussion.

**Action:** Forward the motion to the Board meeting on April 9, 2018

**Motion:** That the Board of Education approves the **Health 9 McGraw-Hill Education Textbook Quote**, as presented.

3.5 **Math 6, 7, and 8 Electives Planned Instruction**

Additional courses are being added for educational reform.

**Discussion:** There was no discussion.

**Action:** Forward the motion to the Board Meeting on April 9, 2018.

**Motion:** That the Board of Education approves the **Math 6, 7, and 8 Electives Planned Instruction**, as presented.

**3.6 Statistics Math Textbook Quote**

The planned instruction was approved earlier this month. This is the textbook for Statistics Math. It is a core math credit.

**Discussion:** There was no discussion

**Action:** Forward the motion to the Board Meeting on April 9, 2018.

**Motion:** That the Board of Education approves the **Statistics Math Textbook Quote**, as presented.

**3.7 Social Studies 6, 7, and 8 Electives Planned Instruction**

Planned instruction was updated for Social Studies 6, 7, and 8 Electives.

**Discussion:** There was no discussion.

**Action:** Forward the motion to the Board Meeting on April 9, 2018.

**Motion:** That the Board of Education approves the **Social Studies 6, 7, and 8 Electives Planned Instruction**, as presented.

**3.8 Science 6, 7, and 8 Planned Instruction Revisions**

Planned Instruction updated for new textbooks.

**Discussion:** There was no discussion.

**Action:** Forward the motion to the Board Meeting on April 9, 2018.

**Motion:** That the Board of Education approves the **Science 6, 7, and 8 Planned Instruction Revisions**, as presented.

**3.9 Family Consumer Science 7 Planned Instruction Revision**

Revised from 9 weeks to a semester.

**Discussion:** There was no discussion.

**Action:** Forward the motion to the Board Meeting on April 9, 2018.

**Motion:** That the Board of Education approves the **Family Consumer Science 7 Planned Instruction Revision**, as presented.

**3.10 Computer 6 Elective Planned Instruction**

New elective course.

**Discussion:** There was no discussion.

**Action:** Forward the motion to the Board Meeting on April 9, 2018.

**Motion:** That the Board of Education approves the **Computer 6 Elective Planned Instruction**, as presented.

**3.11 Computer 8 Planned Instruction Revision**

Revised from 9 weeks to a semester.

**Discussion:** There was no discussion.

**Action:** Forward the motion to the Board Meeting on April 9, 2018.

**Motion:** That the Board of Education approves the **Computer 8 Planned Instruction Revision**, as presented.

**3.12 Technology Education iDesign Solutions Quote**

The planned instruction was approved in March. It will be a semester course instead of 9 weeks and 3D design has been added.

**Discussion:** There was no discussion

**Action:** Forward the motion to the Board Meeting on April 9, 2018.

**Motion:** That the Board of Education approves the **Technology Education iDesign Solutions Quote**, as presented.

**3.13 Project Lead The Way Terms & Conditions**

This is a middle level STEM agreement for grades 6, 7 and 8. The courses will be mandatory for grades 6 and 7, but is an elective for grade 8. Three different courses, which the students chose, will be offered.

**Discussion:** There was no discussion.

**Action:** Forward the motion to the Board Meeting on April 9, 2018.

**Motion:** That the Board of Education approves the **Project Lead The Way Terms & Conditions**, as presented.

**3.14 Proposed Creative Learning STEM SmartLab Learning Environment Agreement – Warren Area Elementary Center**

This will be a pilot with grades 3 and 4 at Warren Area Elementary Center. The agreement includes a STEM lab, professional development, materials, software, etc. This will start the first day of school year 2018-2019.

**Discussion:** Board member Ms. Elizabeth Huffman inquired about the due date of the deposit for the agreement and asked if they need to discuss this as a budget item. Mrs. Rhonda Decker said that the due date is in May, but it is already in the budget.

Another Board member inquired as to whether or not a grant could help get what is needed for STEM courses. Mrs. Amy Steward replied absolutely. This is the first of many STEM items that will be brought before the Board.

**Action:** Forward the motion to the Board Meeting on April 9, 2018.

**Motion:** That the Board of Education approves the **Proposed Creative Learning STEM SmartLab Learning Environment Agreement – Warren Area Elementary Center**, as presented.

**3.15 GRANT: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers 1-Year Expansion for Drug-Socio-Emotional Learning**

**Discussion:** There was no discussion.

**Action:** Forward the motion to the Board Meeting on April 9, 2018.

**Motion:** That the Board of Education approves the **GRANT: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers 1-Year Expansion for Drug-Socio-Emotional Learning**, as presented.

**4. Informational Items**

**4.1 Curriculum Related to Educational Reform**

Curriculum related to educational reform is being presented to the Committee at their request. Mr. Eric Mineweaser did all the research regarding questions that were brought up for math. Because Mr. Mineweaser was unable to be at the meeting, Mrs. Rhonda Decker did the presentation, noting that Mr. Mineweaser was available via phone, if the Board had additional questions. Mrs. Decker told the Board that Mr. Mineweaser looked into math by meeting with the math instructors in October. In November, the math curriculum coordinator met with a representative from each school, in which they discussed the difficulties of having CP Algebra I in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and the implications in the high school. The decision, after those meetings, was made to no longer offer CP Algebra I, Advanced Math 7 and Advanced Math 6. Upon further reflection, Advanced Math 7 was put back in because it is a different course than Math 7 and there were concerns that not offering Advanced Math 7 would have detrimental effects on students being able to take Algebra I

Honors in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. When the group met in November and looked at Advanced Math 6, it is the same course and textbook. The difference is that the course is taught at a faster pace. They decided not to differentiate in grade 6, except within the classroom to allow differentiation of instruction for students. Grade 6 will have Math 6; Grade 7 will have Math 7 and Advanced Math 7; Grade 8 will have Math 8 and Algebra I Honors.

Ms. Elizabeth Huffman inquired whether middle level teachers were included in the October meeting. Mrs. Decker said they were there, but there were more high school teachers. The curriculum coordinator, in order to even things out, had one representative from each school, when decisions were made in November.

Ms. Huffman was also concerned about students moving at a faster pace than other students in the same classroom and all students getting the instructional time they need. Why would we not incorporate one class that could move those students along at a faster pace? Mrs. Decker replied that there are many studies out there on how to schedule most effectively for students. Mrs. Decker thinks what the math teachers were saying is there is no need to separate them into a particular class with a cutoff score to get into that class. There are ways in which you can schedule a class where you can differentiate within the classroom and still meet all student needs.

Ms. Huffman asked if there are statistics of the children who are taking Advanced Math 6, who tested in and are moving into Advanced Math 7. Mrs. Decker will get the statistics and present it to the Board. Mrs. Amy Stewart said that she has seen the data that Mr. Eric Mineweaser has put together and it tracks students on how did they go according to sequence and how far they went.

Mr. Joseph Colosimo asked for verification that this was an informational item and no action was required from the Board at this time. Mr. Colosimo requested to discuss this item at a future meeting, when more Board members present.

In answer to a teacher's question regarding the names of teachers that were involved in the November planning meeting, Mr. Colosimo said that the pertinent question is, were there Advanced Math 6 teachers involved in the group. Mrs. Decker will bring that information back to the Board.

#### 4.2 Class Rank

Information on class rank pros and cons, prepared by Mr. Eric Mineweaser, was provided to the Board members. Mr. Joseph Colosimo asked if the current system of valedictorian, salutatorian and historian cause any headaches for administration.

Mrs. Amy Stewart said that class rank is a difficult topic. It is contentious topic, which happens annually at this time of the year. Mrs. Stewart said that she does not think there is one person here, who is an advocate for education that would say that recognizing students for academic excellence is a bad idea. It is a good idea, as that is why we are all here. She wants to recognize academics as much as we do sports. Education is changing. Students are achieving education in different ways. Mrs. Stewart wondered if it is time to weigh

how important the tradition is and how it is working or do we need to look at another system. We do the Latin system, but then we take it further to the class rank. The valedictorian may have the best GPA, but may not be the model student.

Mr. Joseph Colosimo asked if administration feels that the students are taking the best courses for them, or are they taking the course to get them in the three highest positions? Mrs. Amy Stewart replied that there are definitely students taking classes to get ahead in the game, but there are also students who do not do this. Mr. Gary Weber said that one of the scary parts of this is that most often the drive starts with the parents, and not the students. The push to accelerate sometimes starts at the middle level. Some students are accelerating very quickly too soon and therefore, sometimes they are not successful. Administration does not want to see any student be unsuccessful.

Mrs. Donna Zariczny said that we are seeing change in our educational environment. There are different opportunities for students that were not there before and which were not addressed by policy. We are offering diverse programs that are putting students in different positions and giving them opportunities that we did not have before.

Mrs. Amy Stewart said that this year we have students who want to graduate early, but they are not eligible according to policy. Calculations for GPA are so precise that it lends itself to being manipulated, not purposeful or negative, it just happens.

Mr. Gary Weber said that the initial recommendation of high school reform was to get rid of it, but it was kept so that academic achievement could be recognized. In looking at Mr. Eric Mineweaser's handout, colleges and universities are not just looking at rank anymore. They are looking at all the variables that make a student successful.

Mr. Joseph Colosimo said in looking at the data as presented, the colleges do not look at the ranks anymore. Everyone that applies to an Ivy League school is a valedictorian, but not every valedictorian gets in, so how are they differentiating. It looks like they are looking at course load and schedules more so than class rank. Is that a fair statement?

Mrs. Amy Stewart said that it was a fair statement. The shift from colleges seems to be that the weight is going more towards letters of recommendation.

Mr. Joseph Colosimo asked if we know if we are in the majority or the minority in Pennsylvania or the United States in class ranks. Mrs. Amy Stewart was unable to speak to the national level, but everyone in the IU, other than Iroquois, has either eliminated class rank or is phasing it out.

Mr. Paul Mangione thinks we should have a system that is open-ended and available to as many students that can achieve a high level and not just glorify the top three students.

Mr. Gary Weber spoke to Kane School District, who did away with class rank. All students, who met the mark, received number one designation.

Mr. Joseph Colosimo – It sounds like we will celebrate more academic success by eliminating the top three. Mrs. Amy Stewart said it could work in reverse too. You could have 20 students over the bar, and no students over the bar. Mrs. Stewart said to look at the diversity of the GPA's of valedictorians from year to year.

Mr. Joseph Colosimo said if forced to give a recommendation, what would administration recommend the Board to do in terms of a direction to follow. Mrs. Donna Zariczny suggested that because 1/3 of the Board is absent, that the conversation needs to continue, when more Board members are present.

Mrs. Amy Stewart said that academic competition is a good thing. Valedictorian is not necessarily bad. If the Board wants to do something with the current issue that is occurring, it will need done very soon. Mr. Joseph Colosimo said this would involve a change to the current policy.

The item was tabled for the next CIT meeting so a discussion can take place with more Board members present.

5. Other

Information: 5.1 Other

Mike Zamborik shared information for the Warren County Career Center.

6. Closing Activities

6.1 Next Meeting Date – April 30, 2018 – 6:00 PM

6.2 Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM.