



### Curriculum & Technology Meeting Minutes

**Thursday, March 12, 2015 6:30 in D.O. Conference Room**

Attendees: Dawn Heine (chair), Will Cromley; Kelly Spletzer; Dr. Goodin; Mrs. Bast; Mr. Reynolds; Mr. Spletzer

#### **Curriculum/Technology Modernized Learning**

The bi-weekly pilot meetings continue. There have been some ups and downs and each of these provides information to the entire team. The next stakeholder meeting will be on 3/17 and it is a virtual meeting.

#### **Spring City Hybrid Learning**

Several more articles and pieces written about the SUCCESSES of Spring City locally and nationally! Additional professional development was provided to the SC staff on current digital content for the hybrid program and two new pieces of digital content were reviewed that may have benefits to the program in the future.

#### **Technology SMART Classroom**

All SMART classroom installations are complete. We are currently working to install several additional rooms that have been funded by the Home and School organizations. Planning has begun on the next round of classroom installations. There will be a request for bids this spring with plans to begin installation in July.

#### **2015-16 Technology Refresh Purchase Plan**

The following items will be purchased in May 2015

- 710 Lenovo desktop computers – computer labs, media centers and classrooms
- 26 Lenovo workstation computers – STEM computer lab
- 175 LENOVO laptops – elementary classrooms grades 2-4
- 92 Apple iPads – elementary classrooms grades K-1
- 68 Apple iMac computers – graphics and TV studio computer labs

A purchase plan will be presented at the April meeting. Financing options that are being considered are:

- Lease via our existing ePlus Master Lease Agreement
  - About a 2.9% interest rate so about 50K over for years for leasing equipment
- Purchase using funds from capital reserve to be paid back in yearly installments
  - If we purchase it would require about 3M to be tied up for the 4 years of the refresh

Total equipment budget for this purchase is \$750,000.

## **Video Distribution Concerns**

We currently support analog video signal for each of our classrooms for the Spring-Ford TV broadcast. We are using DVD/VCR players to receive the analog signals. This technology is out of date and becoming more expensive to replace when it fails. We are researching options for a long-term plan for video distribution to our buildings. In the current environment we are buying small transmitters to keep current system working. We don't want to put off a change too long

## **Curriculum**

### **Kindergarten Screening and Pre-K Readiness Pilot**

As you (and the Curr./Tech committee) may recall...this program was presented as a possible program for our incoming Kindergarten students in the past (specifically, I shared the initial proposal in November 2013). But due to the excellent weather of last year, we decided to postpone the pilot until this year. So, we have been meeting and the pilot is ready to go.

There is a motion on the upcoming board agenda for the pilot. The pilot will be for eligible entering Spring City and Royersford Kindergarteners...our two elementary Title I schools.

We hopes that the results from the pilot are favorable and may lead to expansion

## **Educator Effectiveness**

Mrs. Bast will be travelling to each building this spring to talk about the changes PDE made, but to let teachers know our plans are not changing: Teachers with Teacher-Specific Information (PVAAS scores) will have that count at the 15% required for Teacher specific information. For the rest of our teachers (those without a PVAAS score) the SLO will count as their 15% Teacher specific information. This means that the SLO counts as 35 % of their overall score, which was the original provision from the state.

## **STEM Update**

Recent article in the Pottstown Mercury (attached)

Curriculum revision (including assessments) continues in grades 7 & 8.

We are preparing for our next PLTW course at the HS and deciding on the third year course.

Grant money received earlier this year has been used to purchase the following items:

- Hollie Burghardt/AP Statistics - a good deal of materials for hands-on lab activities, better precision digital scales, dry erase graphing boards, dice, colored chips for probability labs, and clay and stickers for labs later in the year. Hollie also received a document camera, a set of nine Ipad Air 2s/cases/screen protectors to use in the classroom.
- Kelly Artzerounian/AP Calculus - received 11 Ipad Air 2s, TI-Nspire calculator, TI-Nspire CAS calculators, 36 whiteboards and markers, and a document camera.
- Darin Lenhart/AP Environmental Science - AP Advantage Refill Kit, a ten-pack of AP Advantage Science Manuals, four H-Racer 2.0, a Biodiesel Production Kit, six student grade Kicknets, and a Weather Curriculum pack.

Engineer's week was a great success. Students engaged in activities such as:

- Code writing with Legos (3<sup>rd</sup> grade)
- Parachute making and testing (2<sup>nd</sup> grade)
- Student invented games (2<sup>nd</sup> grade)
- Pringle's packaging (protect the Pringle through the mail) 10<sup>th</sup> grade PLTW
- Middle school Science Club made slime
- 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students heard a guest speaker from Lockheed Martin

We had very positive feedback from teachers and administrators who would like to see this be an annual celebration.

## Materials & Resources

### Textbooks

Mrs. Bast presented the textbook requests I have and Will Cromley made a motion to put them on the agenda for Monday night. The rationale for early purchase (14/15 money vs. 15/16 money) is so that we can provide training in June and allow teachers to work with the materials to complete the curriculum work this summer. We have the money due to cost savings in some areas, scaling back some programs, and good budgeting, so I wanted to get the materials earlier, rather than later. A copy of my request is attached. The only additional request I may have this year is for AP US History. This would likely be in June for purchase with 15/16 money.

Course	Grade level	Cost- not to exceed	Budget year	Rationale
Life Science	7 <sup>th</sup>	\$46,000	2014-2015	Online subscription ran out. If we can order before July 1 teachers can have training this spring and be better prepared to implement in the fall. This has been brought to the committee as a need earlier this year, just hoping to purchase sooner.
SS- Ancient Civilizations	6 <sup>th</sup>	\$46,500	2014-2015	Part of the changes shared earlier this year to SS Scope and Sequence. Ordering before July allows us to train teachers in the spring which means they will be better prepared to implement in the fall.
Honors Biology	9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup>	\$27,000	2014-2015	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade teacher has been piloting this program this year as a part of Modernized learning initiative. This was slated for purchase with 2014-2015 money.
Marketing	HS Elective	\$3,300	2014-2015	This was a request when I first began and it fell off my radar. The current book is outdated and not fully utilized due to its datedness. Since the cost is small, we could order with this year's money and this will help chip away at the list of outdated materials.

### PLTW Grant Money

This year's money has been spent (was gone in the fall 😊) and we are working on the grant compliance documents (due April 15<sup>th</sup>). Once all of this is submitted to their requirements, the next installment of the grant will be made available (likely July 2015), \$15,000.