

SPRING-FORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINTUES

On Wednesday, June 6, 2018 the Curriculum & Technology Committee meeting was held in the DO conference room. The following people were in attendance: Mrs. Heine, Mrs. Fazzini, Mrs. Bast, Mr. Catalano, Mrs. Gardy, Mr. Strickler, Mr. Cromley and Mrs. Long.

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

Spring-Ford Area School District strives to be educationally relevant, focused on achievement and growth, and have a priority on people so that students are fully prepared to positively contribute to their society.

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by Mrs. Heine

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good news! From Dan Leppold:

On Saturday, Sunday and Monday (May 19-21) Dan Leppold was a special guest at NASA Wallops in Virginia to experience the preparation and launch of a cargo resupply rocket and spaceship destined for the International Space Station. Over those three days he did the following:

1. Attended the press conferences about the resupply mission to the International Space Station (Orbital ATK OA-9 Launch).
2. Met and interacted with NASA officials that ranged from current NASA Director Jim Bridenstine to astronaut Kay Hire (three space missions, two Space Shuttle and one to the International Space Station).
3. Met and interacted with Principal Investigator Eric Cornell (Nobel Prize winner for Physics) and learned about the Cold Atom Lab onboard the Space Station.
4. Met with researchers and business leaders and learned about some of the work being done onboard the Space Station (ranging from pharmaceutical production and fluid separation to the chemistry of cements).
5. Visited the Horizontal Integration Facility at NASA Wallops, saw a Cygnus spaceship and Antares rocket under construction and learned from technicians that work there (Mike Brainard – Orbital ATK Space Systems Senior Manager of Antares Program Operations).
6. Learned about the 3 Earth Science CubeSats (small satellites the size of a lunchbox) – mission topics ranged from weather forecasting to observing the missing mass from the universe.
7. Visited the Wallops Flight Range Control Center and met with Frank Bellinger (Technical Director at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility).
8. Toured the Sounding Rocket Lab and saw sounding rockets under constructed (Jordan Schafer and Herald Cherrix, both Program Managers from Orbital ATK).
9. Toured the Space Balloon Research Development Lab with scientist Gabe Garde and saw hardware being assembled for the next mission.
10. Visited Launch Pad 0A with the live Antares rocket that was about to go into space.
11. Had VIP access to watch the 4:44a.m. launch of the OA-9 Antares rocket and Cygnus spaceship to the International Space Station (our viewing distance was about 2.3 miles, which is incredibly close).

Overall it was a great trip with a lot of experiences that I can share with my students (matched our curriculum perfectly) and I feel it was great public relations for our school district. There were thousands of applications to do this and they only choose 32 participants, so clearly NASA loves SF Rams! If anyone wants to see some of the photos or videos I took or hear more about my experiences do not hesitate to contact me. Sincerely, Dan Leppold

AND: A Spring-Ford Area High School student earned one of the more distinguished honors possible for a high school students: the National Merit Scholarship. **Yash B. Shah**, of Phoenixville who intends to study medicine, was named a finalist winner, and will receive a \$2,500 award. Only 2,500 finalist winners were chosen from a pool of more than 15,000 students from around the nation. Winners are selected purely on merit, without consideration of their family financial circumstances, college choice, major, or career plans. Students are evaluated on standardized test scores, academic record, leadership and community activities, a recommendation, and an essay.

I. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

II. MINUTES - None

III. NEW BUSINESS

Curriculum:

1. Art Department information (Mr. Chad Strickler) – Presentation on the successes and accomplishments in our K-12 Art Department- thank you Chad! We will ask Math to visit in October 2018 (No teacher presentation in September 2018).
2. ELA Updates – Mrs. Gardy provided the following updates:
 - a. Literacy Night was held on Tuesday, May 8th. 14 families attended Literacy Night. We had teachers from across the buildings.
 - b. Kindergarten took place on 5/21 & 5/22. The participants have been identified and contacted. We are awaiting final responses. The Pre-Kindergarten program will run 6/25/18-7/26/18.
 - c. Mrs. Gardy has been meeting with K-6 ELA facilitators to prepare for next school year.
 - d. NWEA/MAP training was held on 5/15 for teachers in grades 3-8. We are learning more about this powerful assessment tool. Mrs. Gardy and Mrs. Taylor met with colleagues at Pottsgrove High School on Monday, May 14th. They learned more about the types of reports that are most useful for our needs.
 - e. Mrs. Bast and Mrs. Gardy have met with non-public schools in Montgomery County and Chester County regarding Federal Programs. 2018-2019 allocations for Titles I, II, & IV will be available later this month.
3. Math Updates – Mrs. Bast provided the following updates for Mrs. Rochlin
 - a. Planning continues for the implementation of 5th and 6th grade Science resource. The initial training was held on May 15th and teachers are excited about all of the new resources available with the new series!
 - b. K-4 Math Review is beginning. We are currently taking an in-depth look at our current resource, and as the review continues into next year, we will begin looking at other possible resources. Our goal is to continue to address the rigors of the PA Core while ensuring that a strong emphasis remains on problem-solving and critical thinking.
 - c. CPM Training continues for Algebra 2 teachers at the Senior High school. (College Preparatory Mathematics)
 - d. Our STEM Excellence Pathway team will meet again on May 29th. Our goal is to bring cohesiveness to our already strong STEM offerings.
 - e. Interviews and planning continue as we bring the RAM Quest program to our 5/6 building!
 - f. We will be reviewing the Kindergarten Report Card this spring/summer to streamline and focus on most important items (for Math and ELA)
4. Other Updates
 - a. 8th Grade Social Studies curriculum development is continuing
 - b. We are ready for Ram Quest in the 5/6 building, Patricia Glass will teach, meeting June 19th to plan curriculum
 - c. Work on our Act 339 Plan continues, with much work done this month to report new College and Career Readiness measures (which will impact Future Ready PA Index). Kim will do a board presentation of the Act 339 plan in September 2018.
 - d. Future Ready PA Index – we are learning more about this, but not much! It is slated for release in Mid-October next year. We will have two correction windows ahead of time, August and Mid-September. Our Data Presentation to the board will be in October 2018.
 - e. Summer work will be posted to our website this week, with a skylert to families.
 - f. We had a monitor from PDE come to audit our Keystone Literature Exam on 5/18/18 in the 9GC and 10-12 building. The results came back and we are “meeting expectations.” They had some suggestions, which we will share in our State Assessment trainings next school year.
5. Contract Approval: Received Approval to put the following contracts on the June agenda, as well as any renewal contracts for 2018-2019.
 - a. TLS (Modernizing Learning and other foundational training)
 - b. MCIU (Hybrid coaching)
 - c. VHS- Virtual High School, through MCIU Consortium

Technology – Mr. Catalano provided the following updates:

1. **Time and Attendance Project – Update** - The Time and Attendance project is up and running. All non-exempt employees are now clocking in and out. 45 Clocks are distributed to all buildings in the district. The last part of the project is automating the Skyward integration. Currently this is a manual process. We are testing the automation in the sandbox at this point, this will be fully operational by July 1.
2. **Network Infrastructure Project – Update** - The wiring portion of the project is complete. We are now in the configuration and deployment phase of the project. Our vendor has received the 144 switches and 631 access points have begun unboxing and configuring the devices. Once complete they will be delivered to their corresponding school. This will complete by the first day of the new school year.
3. **New Tech Staff** - We have hired two new system technicians. Both techs will be starting shortly. We are excited to have them join our team.
4. **New/Refresh Equipment and Summer Project Planning** The board approved the equipment refresh at the May board meeting. We have submitted the purchase order to the 3 winning vendors. We are in the process of planning the distribution of the equipment.
5. **Other:**
 - a. **Projector Project** – We are moving forward with phase 2 of the projector project. We are looking at moving to the laser version of the interactive projector. This will eliminate the need for changing bulbs in the future. We changed over 100 bulbs last year. In order to get promotional pricing, the PO has to be in by June 30th. This will be submitted as an action item at the June 18th meeting.
 - b. **The teacher laptops** – We are purchasing this year, we needed to make sure the G4 or G5 model was suitable for us. So, we had to hold off on purchasing the docking station. That item is on the agenda for approval on the June board agenda.

Curriculum & Technology:

Planning for technology and training needs for 2018-2019 continues.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

V. ACTIONABLE ITEMS- Contracts listed above, one for Action at the work session

VI. NEEDS FOR NEXT MEETING: Next meeting Thursday, September 6th at 6:30pm in the DO Conference Room

VII. BOARD COMMENT

VIII. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

IX. ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 8:30PM by Mrs. Heine