

Spring-Ford Area School District

Curriculum & Technology COMMITTEE MEETING Minutes

On Thursday, January 18, 2018 the Curriculum & Technology Committee Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in the District Office Conference Room. The following people were in attendance: Mrs. Heine, Dr. Dressler, Mrs. Fazzini, Dr. Roche, Mrs. Bast, Mr. Catalano, Mrs. Gardy, Dr. Nugent, Dr. Weidenbaugh, Mrs. Long, Dr. Patschke, Dr. Ruppert, Mrs. Zimmerman, and Mrs. Rees

ANNOUNCEMENTS- None

I. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY- None

II. MINUTES – None presented

III. NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Bast provided our monthly Good news – I am proud to announce that our high school was informed today that it has been named to the College Board's National AP (Advanced Placement) Honor Roll for the **fifth time in the past six academic school years**.

Congratulations to our entire faculty and support staff for your continued efforts to ensure only the best for all students. Detailed information available in the link below:

<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/pdf/ap-district-honor-roll-8th-annual.pdf>

Curriculum:

1. **Name Change** – Mrs. Bast reported that Technology Education department would like a name change to Technology and Engineering Education – Committee agreed this would be a good idea. Change will be reflected the current HS course selection book.
2. **Pre-K Counts** – Mrs. Bast reported that we have an opportunity to bring a PreK Counts program to Spring-Ford Area School District. Pre K Counts is established through our local intermediate unit, MCIU and grant funded. The program will be made available for up to 40 students who qualify based on developmental screeners and would help Spring-Ford Pre K learners to get a needed boost before entering Kindergarten. We are seeking approval to enter into the grant process with MCIU. They would seek a grant on our behalf. There is no cost to the district; we need to provide a classroom for the program. The committee agreed to allow this motion on the January Board Agenda.
3. **New courses**
 - A. **AP 3D Art** (advertised in this year's course selection guide) – Mrs. Bast reported that this course be brought to the committee this month so it can move forward on the January agenda for approval for the 2019-2020 school year. We want it in this year's course book so students can begin to prepare their pieces for this course ahead of time, as a portfolio must be submitted to College Board.
 - B. **Arcadia course** – Mrs. Bast reported that she is working with Arcadia to add a new course to the program. As soon as we know what it is, we will bring it forward for approval.
4. **Class Rank update** – Dr. Nugent shared the background behind this project as well as data gathered from articles, meetings with students and teachers, and outline our desired next steps which include meeting again with teachers and bringing parents in as well. The committee agreed that we should continue our meetings and conversations.

5. **ELA Update** – Mrs. Gardy provided the following ELA updates
- A. November 21st in-service was well received. Literacy coaches and I presented a variety of topics to support literacy learning.
 - B. K-6 classroom visits occurred throughout the month of December to check in with teachers. The Journeys program is going well. Data assessment review is currently taking place for Unit 2.
 - C. Monthly professional development is occurring in grades 5-7. The focus has been on TDAs, writing practices, and student engagement strategies.
 - D. We have been reviewing the assessment process. There is work to be done to review Journeys assessments based on the outcome of the review committee. There will be some changes in writing for grades 3-6.
 - E. Federal Programs continues to be a part of what the Curriculum Department manages. I have been attending coordinator meetings and working with the teachers to provide support. Next week, I am scheduled to visit two non-public schools that some of our allocated funds go to.
 - F. Literacy Night is coming up on March 20th. It will be held at UPE from 6:00-7:30. A planning committee is set to meet on February 13th. I have the Royersford Library coming. I am working with Erin Crew to get information out to parents by the end of February.
 - G. PreKindergarten data is being collected and will be reviewed for discussion at next month's meeting.
 - H. Summer Reading planning is taking place at the HS levels.
 - I. 8th grade English meetings have been occurring monthly to provide PD and discuss the revision of the curriculum documents.
6. **Math Update** – Mrs. Rochlin provided the following Math and Science Updates for Math
- A. **ADMINISTRATIVE LEARNING/PD** – A Math Professional Development Session for administrators (K-12) was held on January 10th, 2017 led by Heidi Rochlin and Gigi Procaro. The focus of the session, which was the 2nd in a series of three, was “what to look for in mathematics classrooms.” The session allowed administrators to experience a CPM classroom as students. Administrators also had time to discuss and explore what it means to be a “student centered” classroom.
 - B. K-4
 - 1. Teachers at Oaks Elementary continue to explore using the Everyday Math resource in a Guided Math format in the classroom:
 - 2. Teachers have participated in PD sessions and meeting with Heidi Rochlin and Sue Choi throughout the year.
 - 3. Teachers are now participating in Peer Observation, Common Planning and Classroom Walkthrough activities to continue to learn and grow together.
 - C. Royersford Elementary has committed to transforming their school and classrooms into Numeracy Rich Environments for students.
 - 1. Plans are underway for art projects throughout the school that have a focus on numeracy.
 - 2. Teachers of the Special Areas have been meeting with Sue Choi and Heidi Rochlin in order to infuse more mathematics into their content areas.

- D. Our Hybrid buildings (Royersford and Spring City) continue to work with Sue Choi, Niki Schieck and Heidi Rochlin to differentiate their instruction within their rotations using data gathered from assessments and anecdotal records.
 - 1. Teachers are using data from ST Math and the Primary Numeracy Assessment to address and remediate any “gaps” students may have in their mathematics understanding.
- E. 5-8 – Teachers continue to participate in monthly PD sessions and meetings with Sue Choi, Heidi Rochlin and Gigi Procaro during the implementation of their new mathematics resource.
- F. 9-12
 - 1. Upcoming PD Sessions for CPM: February 16th, March 27th, May 15th (training will also continue throughout next school year).
 - 2. Coaching, classroom observations and meetings with content specific teams will continue throughout this year and next.
 - 3. Students are registering/preparing to participate in the AMC mathematics competition, this is coordinated by Gigi Procaro.
- G. Special Education
 - 1. Planning sessions are being held with Special Education teachers at the 5th and 6th grade level (twice per month) to support the implementation of the new math resource.
 - 2. Planning sessions and meetings are also being held at the 7-12 level led by Gigi Procaro.
 - 3. PD Sessions for K-6 Special Education teachers on Number Talks are being held and are led by Sue Choi and Heidi Rochlin.
- 7. **Science/STEM/Admin updates** – The following updates were provided by Mrs. Rochlin
 - A. Science
 - 1. Meetings and collaborative planning sessions have been held at all levels (K-12) in order to ensure vertical alignment and content coverage across grade levels.
 - 2. 5th and 6th grade Science are finalizing their decision for a new resource. The finalist is Glencoe Earth and Space Science (2017). This resource would serve both 5th and 6th grade. Heidi is working with Glencoe to customize this text as necessary to meet the needs of our curriculum, state standards and students.
 - B. STEM – A team of 9 teachers and administrators will be participating in the Carnegie STEM Excellence Pathway series at the MCIU.
 - This team will examine current STEM offerings and work together to continue to plan for further implementation and infusion of STEM learning throughout all disciplines
 - The team will meet 3 times at the MCIU (January, May and October)

Technology – Mr. Catalano provided the following technology updates:

- 1. **RFP for the Networking project on E-Rate** – This project will provide wireless network access to all buildings across the district to provide the necessary infrastructure to support all current and future deployments. RFP was publicly posted and bids were accepted until January 17th at 12 Noon. Great news, our rate changed from 40% reimbursement to 50% reimbursement. We had 7 bids, the winning bid was \$1,069,579.98. We will submit the winning/lowest bid to board for approval.

2. **Time and Attendance project** - This project continues to progress, Technology, HR and the Business office are working to get this solution in production by the end of the school year. The implementation team is currently on Module 3 of 9 of the training/implementation process.
3. **Interactive Projector Project** – Phase 1 of 5 complete. 120 Epson Interactive projectors are installed throughout the district. We are working with Epson to help on the integration and training portion of the project.
4. **Help Desk and Inventory System (BMC TrackIt and FATS)** – The current inventory and Help desk system are coming up for renewal in June 2018. They are both dated and don't communicate with each other. We have evaluated one potential replacement and will look at 2 more before making a choice as to what is best for technology and the district as a whole.

Curriculum & Technology: Mrs. Bast provided the following update

1. **Modernized learning update** – There is an administrative group planning our next steps with modernized learning and we would like to present this to the committee at our February meeting (2/6/18). Due to the larger group, we would like to move this meeting the HS Principal Conference Room.
 - A. High School Project – Training and coaching continues for all cohorts in Admin training will take place again in February.
 - B. Hybrid Learning – Continuing to monitor program, all going well.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

VIII. ACTIONABLE ITEMS

1. Approval of AP 3D Art course for the 2019-2020 School Year; 2. Approval to allow MCIU to apply for PreK Counts grant for Spring-Ford Area School District; 3. Bid award for the Technology Network Project (\$1,069,579.98)

IX. NEEDS FOR NEXT MEETING: February 6, 2018 High School Principal Conference Room

X. BOARD COMMENT- None

X. PUBLIC TO BE HEARD – Mrs. Andrea Rees (6th Grade ELA teacher) asked the committee to consider mandatory summer reading for incoming 6th grade students.

XI. ADJOURNMENT- 8pm by Mrs. Dawn Heine