



### Curriculum & Technology Meeting Minutes

#### Tuesday, January 5, 2016 in District Conference Room

Attendees: Dawn Heine (chair), Kelly Spletzer; Dr. Dressler; Mr. DiBello; Mrs. Bast; Mr. Webb; Mrs. Gardy; Dr. Nugent; Mrs. Long; Mrs. Nuneviller, Mr. Moyer; Mr. Cromley; Mrs. Melton

Minutes from the October meeting were accepted.

#### Curriculum

##### I. **STEAM update** (Mrs. Bast) Progress on Action Plan & Hour of Code, Young

Innovators Fair – Mrs. Bast shared that we're on point with the action plan and have met with the HS Business Dept. Chair to discuss course offerings. We are planning to offer Computer Science I in 9<sup>th</sup> grade this year. Work and updates will continue this school year.

The Hour of Code was a great success- students from K-8 enjoyed the hands-on experience of coding and teachers were on board as well.

Ms. Crew did a phenomenal job of organizing our participation in the Young Innovators Fair Jan 2 and 3 at the Oaks Expo Center. Several teachers lent their time and expertise and Spring-Ford's booth was a great success. Our technology department did an outstanding job as well to ensure the necessary equipment was available and ready to use. There are plans for us to participate next year as well.

Dr. Dressler shared some ideas for resources and funding for STEM at Spring-Ford and Mrs. Bast will follow up with him after the meeting. He also shared a contact at Cisco who is interested in supporting our initiatives so Mrs. Bast will reach out to that contact.

II. **Yearbook course**- HS (Dr. Nugent) \* for approval- Dr. Nugent provided a course syllabus for a proposed new yearbook course for the HS (see below). This is necessary to help facilitate the production of a quality yearbook on an annual basis. The course will not appear in the course booklet, but interested students will follow an application & approval process to be chosen for the course. One section will run and the class will work cooperatively with the Yearbook club to accomplish the work. There is no cost to add this course. Syllabus:

##### **Book Publication (Yearbook) Course Syllabus**

Course Description: In this course students will gain skills in one or more of the following areas: page design, advanced publishing techniques, copy writing, editing and photography while producing a creative, innovative yearbook which records school memories and events. There is an emphasis on journalism skills in this class!

Participants gain useful, real world skills in time management, marketing, teamwork, and design principles.

##### **Course Goals:**

1. Students will learn publishing industry terminology.

2. Students will become familiar with Design software.
3. Students will work with various types of technology to produce a “book of memories” such as digital camera, computer,
4. Students will apply computer skills and design principles to the production of yearbook pages.
5. Students will learn copy writing techniques.

**Course Outline:**

Program Area 1: Introduction to the Graphic Design and Publishing Industries

- Students are introduced to the graphic design and publishing industry through magazines, internet, etc. We begin to talk about audience.

Program Area 2: Introduction to the equipment

- Students use multimedia elements to create the yearbook with graphic design software. The introduction of each piece of equipment will be tied to page production.  
Computer; Scanner; Printer; Camera

Program Area 3: Elements and Principles of Design

- Students learn about design elements through production of a finished yearbook.  
Color; Line; Shape Space; Texture; Value; Balance; Contrast; Variety; Harmony;  
Movement/Rhythm; Proportion; Repetition/Pattern; Unity; Emphasis/Dominance

Program; Area 4: Journalistic Writing

- Students learn about journalistic writing through production of a finished yearbook.  
Story writing; Caption writing

Program Area 5: Typography

- Students will maintain a consistent typographic theme through out the yearbook production process.  
Typefaces; Typographic Measurement; Typographic Standards; Typographic Guidelines

Program Area 6: Creating and editing images for print

- Students learn when to use particular image formats for yearbook.  
Formats; Resolution; Raster Vs Vector; Ethics; Copyright laws

Program Area 7: Leadership

- Students will participate in leadership activities such as; school involvement, volunteering in the community as well as performing other leadership tasks within the classroom, school and community.
- Text & Materials: Student will become familiar with Adobe Creative Suite 4 design applications including: Photoshop and InDesign. They will also utilize an online publication generation site by Walsworth

**III. Curriculum Recourses** Mrs. Bast requested and received permission to seek approval for the purchase of 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Textbooks (\$56,881.82) and Level 3 French and Spanish textbooks. (\$50,577.25) on the January Board Agenda

**IV. ELA K-6 Curriculum** Review final numbers (Mrs. Catie Gardy) Update-  
The total cost for Journeys with the PD and online resources included. \$879,385.84

**V. ELA 7-12**

- 7<sup>th</sup> grade Reading curriculum need- Resource & cost\* for approval- Mrs. Bast shared that we recently discovered a need for a resource to compliment the newly re-written 7<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum. We are requesting to purchase a product from McGraw Hill called Study Sync that will provide ancillary materials and Core-aligned assessments to ensure students are on track for PSSA Proficiency. There is money in the C&I budget to cover the cost (just over \$85,000), but the subcommittee requested that this topic be added to the Finance Committee meeting

agenda (next week) to confirm with Mr. Fink that the budget can withstand this purchase. If the finance committee agrees, the item will be added to the board agenda for January.

- AP Capstone program 9-12- information was shared. For a great video and additional please visit:

<https://lp.collegeboard.org/ap-capstone>

Mrs. Bast indicated that SFASD expressed interest in the program and submitted an application to be part of the 17-18 cohort. College Board will let us know if we're approved this spring. At that time, Mrs. Bast and the HS Principals will present a full plan with cost, etc. to the C&T committee for formal approval to move forward.

## **VI. Pre-K Readiness** - Data from pilot and plans for this year

Mrs. Bast and Mrs. Gardy presented data from last year's Pre-K readiness pilot and the plan to extend the program to all kindergarten students for the upcoming school year. The cost of the program (initially listed as \$57,000) will be reduced to \$28,000 for staff and materials needed to run the program at 3 locations this summer (rather than 6). The program would run 5 weeks (4 days a week) beginning in July 2016. If this program is approved, we would hope to serve the 10%-12% of our incoming kindergarten population that need a jump start.

## **VII. Updates**

- Closing out 2014-2015 staff evaluations- the State finally directed districts how to close out these evaluations-for schools without a new SPP, use last year's SPP numbers. We are working with our vendor to get this done, print and sign all evaluations, and close them out for the year.
- Math supervisor- Mrs. Heidi Rochlin will be placed on the board agenda for approval in January. Her tentative start date will be near the end of March. She is currently employed at the Exeter Twp. School district as their STEM supervisor. We're thrilled to have her join the team.
- Secondary Literacy coach- Mrs. Megan Wilmarth will be placed on the board agenda for approval in January. Her tentative start date will be near the beginning of March. She is currently employed by the Dunmore Area School District. We're happy to have the coaching team complete and are pleased we waited for just the right candidate.

## **Technology:**

### **I. Updates**

Mr. Webb shared the work he's been doing to transition into his new position and will have more information in February.

## **Curriculum & Technology:**

### **I. Modernized learning update (see action plan handout)**

The program is going very well this year with addition of professional learning and coaching provided by Dr. Pete Grande. Participants are reporting success and struggles, but feel supported and able to work through the technology problems (with support from our technology staff) and class management problems with the learning happening with Dr. Grande's company.