



Curriculum & Technology Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 1, 2016 in District Conference Room

Attendees: Dawn Heine (chair), Dr. Dressler, Dr. Goodin, Mr. Webb, Mrs. Gardy, Mrs. Bast, Mrs. Long, Dr. Nugent, Dr. Weidenbaugh, Mr. Cromley

Curriculum:

I. *STEAM update* - Vex Robotics Competition, STEM Fair- Last week we held two very successful and exciting STEM events. Thank you to Dr. Colyer and all of the teachers who contributed to these worthwhile opportunities for our students.

II. *Keystone Exams*- Senate Bill 880 (PPT and handout)-

In March 2014, the Pennsylvania Department of Education published updated changes to Chapter 4, the governing document for public education in our state. The updates set more rigorous requirements for high school graduation through the adoption of Keystone Exams.

On February 3, 2016, Governor Wolfe signed Senate Bill 880 which removed Keystone Exams as a graduation requirement until the class of 2019, with a provision to provide updates and improvements within six months.

Important facts about Keystone Exams:

1. Students in the State of Pennsylvania are still required to take the Keystone Exam. This did not change
2. Keystone Exams will remain a factor for Teacher evaluations and SPP scores. Accountability has increased and improved the academic culture in the High School.
3. We've done tremendous work to align our curriculum and instruction to the end of course exams and our students have proven successful. There no longer is a second final exam, the Keystone is the final exam, which we find to be a valid measure.
4. We want Spring-Ford to continue to uphold its high standards. These courses and the associated end of test exam represent basic skills students should possess before leaving High School.
5. Our current policy indicates students must be proficient on state exams. 217

Technology:

Decisions- Follow up items from January

A. *Monitoring Solution – What's Up Gold* – piloted and chosen, under \$10,000 with perpetual license and training included; Maintenance would be around \$2000 annually. A motion will appear on the March School Board agenda for approval of this.

B. *Website updates-* Five vendors have been seen; **Final Site** is the front runner. March 9th meeting for all stakeholders to review. Cost would be around \$18,000 to host, similar to Fusion. We would like to recommend purchase of this on the March agenda. A motion will appear on the March School Board agenda for approval of this barring any issues as March 9th stakeholder meeting.

C. *Office 365 Email solution-* We will pilot this first to work out any issues. It will cost about \$10,000 to set up our system in the cloud which will save us money in the end because we'll have more storage and not need to worry about backing up the system; helps with disaster recovery plan as well. A motion will appear on the March School Board agenda for approval of this.

D. *Telephone replacement system-* Tech has met with 2 vendors to see their solutions and share budget numbers. More information will be forthcoming.

Curriculum & Technology:

Modernized learning update –

A. High School Project: We've been meeting with principals, Dr. Grande to plan next year's program. Feedback from this year has been overwhelmingly positive and we have many teachers eager to participate.

B. Hybrid at Royersford: Mrs. Carboy has been communicating with her families and teachers regarding the plans for next year- the hybrid model will continue into third grade. We are planning some professional learning for 3rd grade teachers this spring and will have a plan for summer as well, so roll out can take place early in the fall.