

**MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2006
BOARD ROOM
MINUTES**

PRESENT: **Committee:** Chairperson Nancy Galbraith, Ms. Carol DeLuca, Mr. Robert Moldoff and Dr. Jeffrey Shapiro

Administration: Mr. Stanley Piccara, Dr. Constance Bompadre and Mrs. Merle Horowitz

Press: 1

Audience: 1

Mrs. Galbraith opened the meeting at 7:32pm and welcomed all in attendance.

Approval of Minutes for August Curriculum, Instruction and Technology Meeting

Ms. DeLuca made a motion and seconded by Dr. Shapiro to approve the minutes.

Informational Items

- **Opening Day Feedback**

Dr. Bompadre stated that it seemed like this year was off the charts with how happy people were across the board. Everyone enjoyed Mrs. Horowitz's speech which was described as warm and gave a community feeling to the day. We had a lot of positive comments about our Teacher of the Year, Angie Matt's speech. She made a bookmark for every faculty in the district which were friendly reminders about how you are with students. Culbertson spent an afternoon with a representative from Springfield Psychological who came to talk about fostering responsibility in students. This was very well received and rated "excellent-good". Every faculty raved about Dr. Brooks. He really challenged teachers to think about how they impact students. He received a standing ovation from the faculty which we have never seen before. We would like to bring him back. Loomis had another representative from Springfield Psychological come and speak about autism. He gave good tips and handouts. At times they thought that three hours seemed a little long because they received so much information. Russell also had a speaker from Springfield Psychological speak on autism who gave very good background information such as signs of autism. The teachers would have liked to have heard more strategies that they could use with their students in their building. Worrall did a building level technology day. They were given smart board presentations and the faculty had time to go back and work in teams about what they learned that day. Paxon Hollow, on one of their in-service days focused on bullying prevention training and the resilience training for youth. The High School had a presentation about substance abuse. Raymond McFall did some GradeQuick training with the faculty. They also did some break out session follow-ups with Dr. Brooks. We couldn't be happier with opening day.

Mr. Piccara stated that the Board will receive a report on what Chris Netter did with the 9th Grade Orientation.

Mrs. Horowitz stated that we had 167 freshmen attend out of an anticipated class of 300. The students were very excited.

- **Differentiated Supervision Plan and Policy Update**

Dr. Bompadre stated that Stan and her put together this plan and once the update is completed, the Board will receive a copy of it.

- **Crisis Response Guide**

Mr. Piecara stated that this manual was not updated since 2003. Names have changed, directors have changed and there were changes in the crisis management response techniques. We had a committee who sat down and went over every detail of this book and brought it up to date. Our goal is to revise it yearly to keep it accurate and accessible. The committee put in a lot of work. I would like to thank the whole committee.

Mr. Moldoff stated that some of the information, in general needs to be more explicit such as putting names and phone extensions on a building-by-building basis. I know that would require more updating.

Mr. Piecara stated that because of the large number of changes that took place over the years, the committee decided to name it by position. We did have that discussion and I will make a note of it for the next time through. There have been plans from the state, federal level and in the county level that are putting together an emergency response plan in the event that we have a pandemic flu or terrorist attack situation that may require medical assistance across the county. Our high school has been designated as a POD (Point of Distribution) in the event that any emergency medical services need to be administered county wide or statewide. There are about 35,000 residents that are covered in our POD. The local POD have been asked to secure about 150 volunteers for crowd control and managing people coming in and out of the building.

- **Assessment and Grade Reporting Update**

Dr. Bompadre stated that the Assessment and Grade Committee is breaking out a little more into elementary and secondary. We have scheduled the elementary writing team with dates and times that they will meet to put together standardized based elementary report cards. We want to get some information from parents and community that we could provide to this committee as they move forward in this process. Mrs. Horowitz will be giving you personal invitations to two round tables that we have scheduled on November 6th 7-9pm and February 5th 7-9pm. We are inviting teachers and teachers to come participate. At the secondary level we have a steering level committee as well as some staff to look at trying to break that gap between middle school and high school and are we all assessing and grading students equitably across the secondary schools. They will specifically look at credits, transcripts and consistency in grading 6-12 and a need to look at report card comments.

Dr. Shapiro stated that he is amazed each year as to the variability of what I see in terms of expectations from teachers. Some of it, I think is appropriate and some I think they have a lot of nerve talking to a parent that way and talking to a kid that way with some of the things that come home. The tone of some of the communication is frankly inappropriate.

Action Items

- **To approve the first reading of the following revised school board policy:**
 - **Policy 412 – Evaluation of Professional/Temporary Professional Employees**

Mrs. Horowitz stated that there will be a joint letter going out from myself, Stan and Connie and the three members of the MNEA including the president as the author of that document that is now state approved. It means a great deal to me to have the MNEA leadership because they are in favor of a stricter document that truly will validate the excellence in the classroom but also provide important construction suggestions to those professional staff members that need guidance. I think that it sends a strong statement that it is jointly written.

Dr. Shapiro stated that a minimum of one observation per tenured professional unless there is an issue, is it your intention to stick with that or is it your intention to try to do more?

Mrs. Horowitz replied that where we are evaluating excellence, one would be appropriate. For an individual who could have issues in a classroom be more marginally satisfactory, there will be additional.

Dr. Shapiro stated that the issue in my mind as to announced versus un-announced observation, I am not a fan of announced observation. Any person in any working situation, if they know they are going to be evaluated will be at the top of his/her game. I think those observations are not meaningful or useful. There is nothing in this document or the other document which speak to the issue. What are you intending to do with announced versus unannounced?

Mrs. Horowitz replied that she would like the recommendation in that guideline be that all formal observations be unannounced. This will be included in our administrative guidelines.

Mr. Moldoff stated that on the last page, number 13 this may be beneficial to say how they will be notified within 10 days if they refuse to sign it.

Mrs. Horowitz replied that they are usually notified in writing and they will add that.

Mrs. Galbraith stated that this motion would be brought to the full Board for approval.

- **To approve the second reading of the following revised school board policy:**
 - **Policy 906 – Public Complaints**

Dr. Shapiro stated that this does not cover complaints to the Board itself. I don't believe we have a policy anywhere that states a time to respond if we receive a complaint.

Mrs. Horowitz replied that they will look at that.

Mrs. Galbraith stated that this motion would be brought to the full Board for approval.

- **To approve the sale/disposal/donation of outdated, unused text as listed:**
 - **Economics: Principles, Problems and Policies. McGraw Hill, McConnell and Brue, 1996. ISBN 0-07-046814-1 (42 copies)**
 - **Sociology: Understanding Society. Prentice Hall, Rose, Glazer and Glazer, 1984. ISBN 0-13-821033-0 (26 copies)**
 - **The American Pageant. DC Heath and Co., Bailey and Kennedy, 1994. ISBN 0-699-33892-3 (60 copies)**
 - **World History: The Human Experience. Glencoe/MacMillan-McGraw Hill, Farah and Karls, 1994. ISBN 0-02-822756-5 (55 copies)**

Mrs. Galbraith stated that this motion would be brought to the full Board for approval.

To approve the following field trips:

- **Paxon Hollow Middle School 8th grade class to PA Renaissance Faire on 10/11/06 from 7:00am to 5:00pm.**
- **Paxon Hollow Middle School Band and Color Guard trip to Allentown, PA on 5/31/07 from 9:00am to 8:00pm.**

Mrs. Galbraith stated that the two field trips will be brought to the full Board.

Mr. Moldoff asked where we are with Grade Quick.

Mrs. Horowitz replied that Mr. McFall is working quite diligently with training and we are very pleased with the progress that we are making.

Mrs. Galbraith adjourned the meeting at 8:19pm.

Respectfully submitted by Heather Welsh, Secretary to the Board.