

b. Social Studies Curriculum – Ms. Sandra Schaal

Ms. Sandra Schaal shared with the Board the major goals of the Social Studies Department for 2009/2010. In committees, grades K-5 will review and revise elementary social studies scope and sequence. In committees, grades 11 and 12 will review and select new text materials to recommend to the board for adoption. The Social Studies Department will continue to revise/refine and write curriculum for grades 6-10.

New curriculum is being implemented for grades 6,7,8 at Paxon Hollow. There is a newly revised program for grade 9. Ms. Schaal explained Big Ideas and Essential Questions using the grade 9 curriculum. For example, all human cultures have to meet the same basic needs. They need food, shelter and education. From that Big Idea there are two Essential Questions. How a civilization throughout history met the basic needs of human society and what evidence of continuity and change can be seen in how societies have met these changes. Core curriculum maps were written for grades 6,7 and 8. Performance assessments were designed for grade 9, and core maps were outlined for grade 10.

Grade 6 teachers received professional development over the summer for Geography Alive. Grade 7 and 8 teachers were trained in the use of technology tools and resources for America: A History of Our Nation.

A question arose from an audience member about the use of technology and electronic books. Ms. Schaal said that, at Paxon Hollow, every student is registered for the online text. The policy for grade 7 and 8 social studies is that the online book is the default book and that if a student needs a hard copy of the book, the book will be available. Ms. Heidi Collazo, the district educational technology director, met with students in the computer lab, taught the students how to get online, gave an introductory tutorial and the teachers are making assignments using the online book. Ms. Schaal will follow up with teachers to see how the use of online technology is going.

Ms. Schaal shared with the Board new program “highlights.” Grade 6 teachers and students love the new interactive geography lessons. Grade 7 and 8 students are learning to use e-books and teachers are making assignments online. Grade 9 teachers are using new materials to help students “think like historians.”

c. Technology Update – Mr. Chris Lee

1. Wireless for High School Renovation/Addition project.

Mr. Lee explained that there is partial coverage (wireless) at the high school (classrooms that participated in the Classrooms of the Future grant). There is partial coverage of Worrall Elementary School. Culbertson, Loomis, Russell, and Paxon Hollow all have coverage within a small area, typically the size of one classroom where a cart is located at the moment.

Mr. Lee provided a breakdown of the cost for the district wireless coverage.

Using pricing from our incumbent wireless hardware provider, the high school expansion would cost \$127,000 and a total of \$300 for the district (using the vendor we have now).

An HP Procurve solution would cost \$124,000 for the high school and a total of \$257,000 for the district. Moving to this new solution would be a cost difference of \$3,000 for the high school and \$43,000 for the district. Mr. Lee is working with CDWG to negotiate the above state contract pricing for a more competitive rate as we did for the network switching equipment for the high school where we came in \$30,000 under the contract.

Mr. Lee said that the high school project would come from the capital fund for the building project. He is looking for input from the Board. Mrs. Galbraith asked if the computers/laptops are really being used. Mr. Lee responded by saying that they are heavily used, especially the Smartboards. Mrs. Netter ran several workshops over the summer for the teachers regarding Smartboards.

As far as cost, Mr. Lee and Mr. Burwell, along with the help of the Facilities Department, would do the installation of the wireless expansion. This is a \$30,000 savings to the District.

2. High School and Paxon Hollow desktop/laptop condition and replacement plan.

Mr. Lee shared a cost proposal to the Board to condition and/or replace desktop/laptops. Since September, 2009, the District has had to replace 19 computers at Paxon Hollow and 11 computers at the high schools with inventory that was removed from the elementary schools. Mr. Lee projected that at the end of the next school year, there will be significant amount of computer failure.

Windows XP "license availability" ended June 30, 2008. Mainstream support ended April 14, 2009. This also included Microsoft Office 2003.

In October 2009, Windows came out with their new system which would require significant hardware and hard drive upgrades. Mr. Lee provided the Board with a proposed refresh plan that would come in phases: 2010/2011, 2011/2012, 2012/2013, 2013/2014 and ending in 2014/2015.

Dr. Shapiro has some concerns that technology resources are not being used as productively in the classroom as they should. He asked if a histogram with some information on subject areas could be provided to give a better understanding as to whether we are really using the technology today that we are being asked to refresh. He asked if Heidi Collazo could demonstrate plans to justify the expenditure.

Mrs. Galbraith asked Mr. Lee to provide more justification and that he would have to take the proposal to the full Board.

6. Action Items/Motions

Mrs. Galbraith asked that a motion be made to approve all of the Action Items/Motions from the original agenda and the addendum be approved. The motion was approved for the following agenda items:

- a. To approve the re-establishment of the Future Business Leaders of American (FBLA) club. The purpose of FBLA is to provide additional opportunities for high school students to develop vocational competencies for business and office occupations and business teacher education. FBLA promotes a sense of civic and personal responsibility.
- b. To approve the Paxon Hollow Middle School 7th Grade trip to the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) leaving May 5, 2010 and returning on May 7, 2010. The 7th grade curriculum includes life science, the study of living organisms, plants and animals.

Addendum Items/Motions

- a. To approve the establishment of the MarNews. The MarNews is a high school student-run school newspaper. It will serve as an important outlet for news, sports, etc. Students will sell advertising space to local businesses and sponsors. The funds will cover all costs associated in the printing of the newspaper.
- b. To approve the establishment of the Yoga Club. This high school club is being formed for the students to get exercise and release the stress.
- c. To approve the establishment of the Greek American Student Association. This organization is being formed to unite MNHS students of Greek descent to become better acquainted with their culture.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.