

**MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, March 11, 2010
GAUNTLETT CENTER BOARD ROOM**

PRESENT: **Committee:** Mrs. Nancy Galbraith, Mrs. Dana Kauffman,
Mrs. Kathryn Chandless

Board Member: Mr. Richard Sokorai

Administration: Dr. Merle Horowitz, Dr. Constance Bompadre,
Mr. John Beltrante, Mr. Chris Lee, Mr. Lance Freeman,
Mr. Richard Slonaker

Press: 0

Audience: 10

I. Call to Order

Mrs. Galbraith called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Galbraith led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of Minutes of January, 2010

The January 2010 minutes were approved by the committee.

IV. Approval of Agenda

The agenda, as amended, was approved by the committee.

V. Discussion/Informational Items

a. Applicant & Candidate Tracking System – Mr. Lance Freeman

Mr. Freeman introduced Mr. Troy Cook, of Netchemia. Netchemia helps school districts make their application process easier for applicants and staff. Their solution is called SchoolRecruiter. The purpose of SchoolRecruiter is to manage, control and communicate the online application process.

Mr. Cook presented an online demonstration from the candidate's perspective.

- Easier to complete the application
- No risk for loss of application
- Able to view status at any time
- Confirmation when application is received
- Update profile at any time
- Job Alert – update every 7 days
- Interactive help
- Invitation sent to candidate for interview

Mr. Freeman noted that the program can be customized and that additional items can be added. If SchoolRecruiter were to be approved, the change would be gradual. Cost for SchoolRecruiter would be under \$3,000 per year.

b. Technology Update – Mr. Chris Lee

(1) Communication Systems

The Marple Newtown School District was the winner of CDWG's raffle for an interactive white board at this year's Pete & C Conference.

The Technology Department made contact with Microsoft's Premier Engineering team. A member of that team has volunteered his time to evaluate our district's technology infrastructure and to develop a comprehensive report on how to maintain our systems and reduce software and operating costs. As of now, the technology department has identified areas of reduction that can provide savings of \$6,000 annually.

Mr. Lee also reported that 304 of our faculty members have engaged in over 3,643 hours of professional development classes to date.

The MNSD Foreign Language Department has engaged in using communication software (Skype) to communicate with a class in France.

Elementary students are using computers to create video presentations of assignments by importing pictures, music, and powerpoint slides.

(2) Elementary School Network – Condition and Planning

Mr. Lee informed the Board that the current physical network at the elementary schools has not been maintained for over 6 years. The current switch hardware is in critical condition.

It is costly to replace equipment due to neglect. The district had to replace a network component at a cost of \$800 three times because of poor power conditioning.

Preliminary costs put the re-wiring and network replacement at \$423,000 (total for all 4 elementary schools). The Technology Department is working very closely with Operations and with vendors to negotiate and strategize a more reasonable price.

- Performing the work in-house
- Using a different cabling standard

A Board member did ask if the money was in the budget. Mr. Lee responded by saying that he is working closely with Joe Driscoll to come up with a plan.

c. Mathematics Curriculum – Mr. Richard Slonaker

Mr. Slonaker gave a powerpoint demonstration to the Board on the mathematics: curriculum, instruction and assessment. He said that the District is currently aligned to Standards and curriculum mapping is used to determine future work.

Mr. Slonaker informed the Board that the Keystone Exams were coming soon. He spoke of the Mid-Year and End-Year assessments (elementary level). He is currently entering the assessment data into a master spreadsheet.

Mr. Slonaker created a Math wiki which is available to all math teachers and special education teachers who teach math. The wiki helps to increase communication among the math teachers. There is also a Parent/Student Resource available on Edline. The resource is on every school's website. He wanted the Board to know that the wiki and Parent/Student Resource is a work in progress.

An audience member asked how the information for the wiki and Parent/Student Resource gets communicated to the parents. Mr. Slonaker said that there are several ways:

- Teachers are informed
- District Newsletter
- Edline email
- Flyer to be posted in all of the buildings
- Mr. Slonaker is open to suggestions for other ways to communicate

d. Calendar Discussion – Dr. Connie Bompadre

Dr. Bompadre thanked her colleagues for their hard work on the calendar.

Current Calendar:

Because of snow days, our seniors will have 179 days instead of 180 days. There was discussion about having the seniors come in on May 28 and extending their Senior Project. The last Teacher/Student day is now June 18, 2010 and June 21, 2010 is an In-

Service Flex Day. A Board member asked to have ½ days put back into the calendar for final exams. Mr. Beltrante explained that there is a time crunch. Grades will be due June 17, 2010. Teachers will need to receive grade verifications on June 18.

Proposed Calendar for 2010/2011:

Dr. Bompadre thanked Chris Netter for researching calendar designs. Everything is now on 1 page.

In August there will be 5 full days for New Teacher Induction. The rest of the teaching staff will return August 31st, September 1st and 2nd. September 2nd will be for classroom set up.

There was much discussion about ½ days and conference days for students. An audience member asked about evening conferences. Dr. Horowitz mentioned that some districts do have evening conferences. Teachers have a ½ day and then return for the conferences. Students still have off. Dr. Horowitz said that this option can be revisited. Several Board members liked this idea.

Half days were added for mid-terms (high school). The difference between Draft 1 and Draft 2 is an additional ½ day for final exams (high school and middle school).

e. Summer School Discussion – Dr. Connie Bompadre

Dr. Bompadre asked the Board for guidance regarding summer school for 2010. Several options were discussed.

- Summer school must be moved to Paxon Hollow due to the construction at the High School.
- We could offer online courses through Educhere which start at \$198.00.
- Delaware County Community College offers classes which are comparable in price to online courses.
- Several surrounding districts (Rose Tree and Haverford) would be willing to accept our students.

After some discussion, the general consensus was to have our students go elsewhere this year due to renovations.

Paxon Hollow can run summer school for their students.

f. Discussion of Clubs – Dr. Connie Bompadre

Dr. Bompadre would like to have new clubs presented at the CIT Meetings in January and May so that students know what to expect and brochures can be updated.

An audience member asked if there are guidelines for existing clubs. Dr. Bompadre said yes, clubs need to be approved and the club also needs a sponsor.

VI. Motions

The following motions were approved by the CIT Committee.

- a. The Paxon Hollow Middle School Grade trip to Hershey Park on June 10, 2010 leaving 7:15 AM and returning 7:00 PM.
- b. The Concurrent Enrollment Agreement with Delaware County Community College. Delaware County Community College will partner with Marple Newtown School District to provide college level courses for students enrolled under the Dual Enrollment Grant.
- c. The Concurrent Enrollment Agreement with Widener University. Widener University will partner with Marple Newtown School District to provide college level courses for students enrolled under the Dual Enrollment Grant.

Addendum

Motions:

- d. The MNHS L.I.N.K. Trip to SMYMCA Camp in Wernersville, PA from May 14, 2010 to May 16, 2010. Those students attending are involved in the student leadership initiative.
- e. The MNHS Trip to Millersville University in Millersville, PA from May 12, 2010 to May 13, 2010. Those students attending are involved in The National History Day State Competition.

