

**CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, February 17, 2015  
GAUNTLETT CENTER BOARD ROOM**

**PRESENT:**            **Committee:** Mrs. Barbara Harvey, Mr. Matthew Bilker

**Board:** Ms. K. Chandless, Mr. Robert Sack

**Administration:** Dr. Merle Horowitz, Dr. Constance Bompadre, Mr. Chris Lee,  
                          Dr. Toni Himes

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Bilker called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Bilker led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

The January, 2015 minutes were approved by the committee.

**IV. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved by the committee.

**V. Discussion/Informational Items**

A. League Minder – *Mr. Dennis Reardon*

League Minder is a scheduling and communication program used by the middle and high school. Schedules are done a year in advance. It is also a tool for parents to view schedules and get directions to sporting events. It replaces the printed cards. Mr. Reardon told the committee that League Minder is not used for individual statistics. Team managers or volunteers often keep statistics. League standings are kept at the high school level. Winning teams report statistics to League Minder that are essential to the contest only.

Mr. Reardon also told the committee that on February 24 at 7:30 p.m., Dynamite Sports will be available to help parents/students navigate the recruiting process. It will involve students from Grades 8 through 12. This event is open to other schools.

B. Language Arts Curriculum – *Dr. Toni Himes, Mr. Dave Faga, and Ms. Courtney March*

Dr. Himes shared a power point with the committee. She explained to the committee that Language Arts consists of 4 pieces.

- Reading – Informational/Literature
- Writing – Opinion/Argument, Informational/Explanatory, Narrative, Text Analysis – grades 4 and up
- Speaking – Collaborative Conversations
- Listening

At the elementary level, curriculum maps for K-5 have been updated and entered into SAS (Standards Aligned Systems).

Title I is supported by a Federal Grant. Title I is for students who have some difficulty with reading. Once the district receives the money, it can be used to provide support for regular education students also. Title I also funds a certain percentage of the salary for our elementary reading specialists and helps to pay for staff development. Some new materials for the Reading Wonders 2014 program were also purchased from Title I funds.

Dr. Himes explained the Curriculum Framework to the committee. The Framework consists of:

- Essential Questions – displayed in each classroom
- Concepts – what students need to know
- Competencies – what students need to be able to do
- Resources – coded to standards
- Assessments
- Standard

At the secondary level, curriculum maps for 6-12 have been updated and entered in SAS (Standards Aligned Systems). The structure of 6-12 language arts is as follows:

- Grade 6 – Critical Reading/English
- Grade 7 – Critical Reading/English
- Grade 8 – English
  - Core/College Prep/Honors/AP
- Grade 9 – Literary Genre
  - Humanities
- Grade 10 – World Literature I
- Grade 11 – American Literature
  - American Studies
  - AP Language and Composition
- Grade 12 – World Literature II
  - AP Literature and Composition

Dr. Himes also told the committee that there are many electives at the high school. Those electives are:

- Journalism I and II
- Speech I and II
- Creative Writing
- Poetry
- Cinema
- Theatre
- Women's Studies
- Skills for Test Taking in Reading/Writing

Language Arts also consists of the ELL Program (English Language Learner). There is 2.5 staff for 6 buildings. There are 82 students in the program. The highest incidence languages are Vietnamese, Arabic, and Punjabi. Title III supplemental funds for the ELL program are used for:

- 5 week summer school
- Materials
- Family Night
- Assistants or tutoring
- Field trips

#### Reading Wonders Program

Mr. David Faga and Ms. Courtney March spoke to the committee about the new elementary reading program, Reading Wonders. They believe the program has much to offer and is adaptive to student needs. They feel students are better prepared for testing and that similar/same language is used throughout each grade. There is a video on the district website which describes the new program.

#### C. Elementary Curriculum Guide – *Dr. Constance Bompadre*

The Elementary Curriculum Guide was given a facelift. A brief overview was given for each subject area. Veteran teachers provided quotes for each grade level. Technology standards have been added for each grade level. A Progression Chart from middle school to high school (per content area) has been added to end of the curriculum guide. The Elementary Curriculum Guide will be posted to the website.

## **VI. Motions**

The following motions have been moved along to the full Board.

### **Student trips - Curricular**

- A. Motion to approve Ms. Anita Stum, teacher, and 3 students to attend the FBLA State Leadership Conference in Hershey, PA on April 13-15, 2015. The cost per pupil for

lodging and meals in \$153.34 which is paid by the students. The total cost to the district is \$420.00 which includes the registration and car rental.

- B. Motion to approve Mr. Chris Vogel, teacher, and 45 choir students to travel to New York City to attend the Broadway performance of Les Miserable on May 9, 2015. The total cost per pupil is \$110.00. There is no cost to the district.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn M. Paine