

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, May 21, 2015
GAUNTLETT CENTER BOARD ROOM

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

Board: Mr. A.J. Baker, Mr. Matthew DeNucci, Ms. Kathryn Chandless, Mr. Nick Reynolds

Administration: Dr. Merle Horowitz, Dr. Constance Bompadre, Mr. Chris Lee, Dr. Josephine Johnston, Ms. Sandra Schaal, Mr. James Orwig

I. Call to Order

Mr. Altieri called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Approval of Minutes

The April 21, 2015 minutes were approved by the committee.

IV. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by the committee.

V. Discussion/Informational Items

- A. Technology Committee Update – *Dr. Connie Bompadre, Mr. Chris Lee, & Dr. Josephine Johnston*

Dr. Bompadre thanked the Technology Committee for their hard work. The mission of the Technology Plan is to create a new vision of learning and teaching in the age of the Internet. The goals of the plan are to: increase student achievement, increase rigor, personalize learning, develop essential skills in problem-solving, critical thinking, creative collaboration and global communication.

Dr. Johnston shared a video with the committee that highlighted the technology accomplishments for the elementary/middle and high school over the course of this past school year.

District needs were also outlined:

Hardware/software

- More computers for increased student access to technology
- Device that is compatible with Google Apps
- More reliable network (laptops)

Curriculum/Programs

- Typing program for elementary students
- Updating curriculum for middle school classes
- Redesign of high school Tech Ed & Business Ed offerings
- Use of Apps (Chrome)

Increased Mobility – anywhere learning

Staffing: targeted skills to support the increase in technology hardware and software across the district.

Mr. Lee went over the budgeting process for the hardware/software. Hardware - The projected leasing plan will begin with the 2015/16 school year and expire at the end of the of the 2018/19 school year. At the end of the leasing cycle the total district wide computer inventory will be approximately 3,305 which is a 36% increase compared to today's current inventory. Total lease value for five years is \$721,220. (No increase to the technology budget). Keep in mind that there will be additional computer technology for staff, operational functions and group areas.

Software – The District will utilize the extensive Adobe software suite at all of its schools. The annual cost for this software, district-wide is \$8700. (No increase to the technology budget).

Typing Pal, typing education software, will be used at the elementary schools at an annual cost of \$1250. (No increase to the technology budget).

B. Review of Bullying/Cyberbullying Policy #249 – *Dr. Connie Bompadre*

The Bullying/Cyberbullying policy was reviewed and does not require any changes. The District Safety Committee recommended the policy to remain as is. Mr. Altieri requested that the second reading be waived for the May School Board Meeting. For Safe Schools reporting to the state, Marple Newtown must demonstrate that this policy was reviewed.

C. Staffing Update – *Dr. Merle Horowitz*

Dr. Horowitz told the audience that the District evaluated the enrollment trends. The ELL population has grown significantly in the four county area. Presently there are 1.5 elementary level ELL teachers. The recommendation is to add a 0.5 elementary ELL teacher, which would increase one teacher from 0.5 to a 1.0 teacher.

There has been a decrease in enrollment at Paxon Hollow Middle School. The recommendation is to reduce a .6 Social Studies teacher and 1 Special Education teacher. Due to restructuring, those teachers will not lose their positions.

The recommendation is to replace the 4 elementary technology assistants with 2 full time certified deskside technicians. The technicians are required to have a computer science degree. Duties would include working on computers and networks. They would also have accessibility to work remotely on devices and be on-site, if required. Technicians could also provide professional development over the summer.

There was a great deal of discussion about the elimination of technology assistants. Audience members expressed concern that technology needs would not be met. Mr. Lee said that chronic problems need to be addressed quickly. Technology problems are entered into "School Dude" and that he personally reviews each problem. Deskside technicians would report directly to the Technology Department. Mr. Lee said that more maintenance could be accomplished with the 2 full-time positions.

VI. Motions

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

Policies:

- A. Motion to approve the second reading of Policy #307 Student Teachers/Interns.
- B. Motion to approve the second reading of Policy #815.1 Website Use and Linking.
- C. Motion to approve the review of the Bullying/Cyberbullying Policy #249.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn M. Paine