

**CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**  
**TUESDAY, January 17, 2017**  
**GAUNTLETT CENTER BOARD ROOM**

**PRESENT:**            **Committee:** Mrs. Barbara Harvey, Ms. Stavroula Kotrotsios

**Board:** Ms. Kathryn Chandless, Mr. Matt DeNucci

**Administration:** Dr. Constance Bompadre, Dr. Carol Carey, Mr. Chris Lee, Dr. Greg Puckett, Mr. Christian Jaspersen, Dr. Gerald Rodichok

**I. Call to Order**

Ms. Chandless called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Ms. Chandless led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

The November, 2016 minutes were approved by the committee.

**IV. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as presented.

**V. Discussion/Informational Items**

**A. Canvas – *Dr. Gregory Puckett, Mr. Christian Jaspersen***

Dr. Puckett and Mr. Jaspersen spoke to the committee about Canvas, a new platform for online learning. It is a uniform platform for teachers and parents. Canvas would replace Bridges, which is experiencing decreasing participation. Dr. Puckett and Mr. Jaspersen are requesting that Canvas be piloted through Spring 2017. Canvas is a host site. It would be a seamless connection from one course to another in a student's schedule. The content would come from our teachers. The current proposal consists of 10 teachers and several building administrators piloting the program. The cost for the pilot program would be \$5000. The cost is based on the number of users. Progress will be evaluated throughout and at the conclusion of the project.

Mrs. Liz Landes piloted one interface, Environmental Science. She loaded her content onto Canvas. She mentioned that she used color coding, e.g., green for Environmental Science, purple for Honors Biology. There is a calendar view for assignments, which is color coded. Mrs. Landes liked many features of Canvas.

## **B. Class Rank – Dr. Gregory Puckett**

Dr. Puckett and Mr. Jaspersen spoke to the committee about moving from the current GPA system to a 4.0 scale. A committee was formed to study class rank and Grade Point Average that included administrators, teachers, counselors and a Penn State administrator, Mr. Jeremy Branch. MNHS currently calculates a student's GPA on a 100 point scale. The 100 point scale is not common and difficult for colleges to translate to a 4.0 scale. The system also calculates both weighted and unweighted GPA. Twelve seniors whose class rank comprises the top, middle and bottom third of the class were asked about class rank. They felt class rank does not show their full potential and half of the students did not even know their class rank. The students were also asked about weighted and unweighted GPAs. Our students preferred weighted GPAs.

Recommendations were:

- to change GPA scale to 4.0
- continue to compute and report unweighted GPA
- continue to compute and report weighted GPA
- discontinue the calculation and reporting of class rank

The district would still calculate class rank for certain schools and the military upon their request. There was a great deal of discussion among committee members, administration and audience members. Dr. Puckett will also reach out to other college admissions officers for feedback.

## **C. Review of Policies 209, 251, and 823 for a first reading – Dr. Gerald Rodichok**

Policy #209 was withdrawn by Dr. Rodichok. Dr. Rodichok spoke briefly about Policy #251, Homeless Students and Policy #823, Naloxone (to treat opioid drug overdoses.) The committee agreed to move the policies along for a first reading.

## **VI. Motions**

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

### **Administrative Conferences:**

- A. Motion to approve Dr. Dorie Martin-Pitone to attend and be a presenter at the SAS Conference in Hershey, PA on December 4-6, 2016. The cost of attending the conference and the hotel are paid by SAS. The cost of mileage to and from the conference is \$100.00. The total cost to the district is \$100.00.**
- B. Motion to approve Mr. Chris Lee, Director of Technology, and Mrs. Debbie Snell, Coordinator of Student Information, to attend the Pennsylvania Department of Education Data Summit on March 12-15, 2017. The total cost of the conference and hotel is \$1,461.42. This price reflects a \$100.00 discount for registering prior to January 13, 2017. The total cost to the district is \$1,461.42.**

- C. Motion to approve Mrs. Lisa Bradley, Pupil Services Secretary, to attend the Pennsylvania Department of Education Data Summit on March 12-15, 2017. The total cost of the conference, hotel and mileage is \$830.00 The total cost to the district is \$830.00**

**Athletic Trip:**

- D. Motion to approve Mrs. Kerren Vosheski, Cheer Coach, to accompany the MNHS Cheerleading Squad to travel to the Giant Center in Hershey, PA for the State Championship on January 20-21, 2017. The total cost for hotel stay is \$1,501.00 paid by the students. The total cost to the district for transportation in \$820.00.**

**Student Trip:**

- E. Motion to approve Mrs. Carolyn Firkser, teacher, to accompany twelve MNHS Spanish students to travel to Costa Rica on June 25 – July 2, 2018. The total cost per student is \$2,295.00 for bus and plane paid by the students. There is no cost to the district.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Paine