

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

(Meeting was held virtually and opened to the public)

PRESENT:

Board: Mr. Nicholas Siano, Mr. Matthew Bilker, Mrs. Desiree Tomasco, Mrs. Tracy Alberti, Mr. Dave Dezzi, Mr. Joseph Driscoll, Ms. Kathryn Chandless, Mr. Nick Reynolds and Mrs. Barbara Harvey.

Administration: Dr. Tina Kane, Dr. Constance Bompadre, Mr. Jake Gallagher, Dr. Dorie Pitone, Mr. Jim Orwig, Mr. Matthew Flood, Mr. Matthew Oberecker, Dr. Heather Logue, Mr. Neil Evans, Dr. Thomas Gretchen and Mr. John Beltrante.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Siano called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was done prior to the Budget and Operations Meetings this evening.

III. Approval of Minutes

The February 16, 2021 minutes were approved by the committee.

IV. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented with the addition of the following motion to the agenda:

Motion: To approve the removal of bushes on both sides of Worrall School's Library in preparation for a proposed memorial garden for Matthew Wzorek on the school grounds. To approve the funding support of Worrall PTO for any materials needed for this garden, amount TBD, not to exceed \$1500. To approve the volunteer time, services, and materials of Del Vacchio Landscape & Christmas Décor, 922 N Chester Road, West Chester, PA 19380, as this garden is planned and installed.

Mr. Bilker commented on the wonderful tribute. The placement of the Memorial Garden will be designed around anticipated renovations at Worrall so the memorial can be honored.

V. Discussion/Informational Items

A. Equity, A District Update – Mr. Neil Evans and Dr. Constance Bompadre

Mr. Evans gave a district update on the Equity and Diversity Committee. This committee was formed to foster inclusivity, promote equity for marginalized groups, and to facilitate a culture where diversity, equity and inclusion are respected and intentionally valued. The committee is composed of teachers from grades K-12, community members and students. The committee is dedicated to exploring how to work together on issues of

equity, inclusivity and diversity to ensure that everyone has an important voice in these conversations.

Each of our school buildings has developed a Building Equity and Diversity Team composed of teachers and administrators. A District Equity and Diversity Interest Group has been formed under the direction of Dr. Cyndy Boyd and includes members of the community, Board members, parents and students in the district. Two students at our high school participate in Delaware County Intermediate Student Forum. These groups are working together to improve opportunities for students and create an atmosphere where all students feel safe and included. Members participate in book studies that encompass culturalization.

Dr. Bompadre reported as a district, Marple Newtown has committed to examining equity through multiple lenses, such as, curriculum, policies, hiring practices and student opportunities. The district's Professional Development Committee believed it was important to start with examining our individual beliefs and to identify our own biases.

Our consultant from Penn, Dr. Cyndy Boyd, recommended Dr. Souma Madabhushi who is a licensed Counseling Psychologist to present on the topic Implicit Bias. Until recently, Dr. Madabhushi worked as a staff Psychologist and as the Outreaching Training Coordinator at the University of Pennsylvania's Counseling and Psychological Services before moving back to India to start her own practice.

She presented to over 300 of our professional staff through zoom. The feedback from the teachers was overwhelmingly positive, and they wanted to learn more. Follow-up conversation occurred at each school lead by building administrators. The foundation for those conversations were based on the teachers completing a few Implicit Association Tests. Those IATs gaged their biases in certain situations. Discussions will continue with the building level committees as teachers transfer this experience to working with and building relationships with students. Teachers gave some suggestions for topics for future professional development. The professional development committee will review these topics and prioritize them.

Dr. Bompadre invited Dr. Dorie Martin-Pitone and Mr. Matthew Flood to share with the interest group the process of how the department evaluates and writes curriculum and answers questions related to curriculum. They shared the multilayered approach of looking at curriculum and the time it takes to make changes in a meaningful and thoughtful manner. Along with the written curriculum and reviewing resources comes the professional development that is needed in planning the delivery of the instruction associated with the resources. Even though we may want changes to occur quickly, curriculum design takes time.

B. Summer Learning Programs – Dr. Dorie Martin-Pitone, Mr. John Beltrante and Dr. Thomas Gretchen

Dr. Dorie Martin-Pitone presented an overview on the anticipated summer school opportunities at the high school, middle school and elementary schools. There will be

virtual enrichment for the Summer Learning Program and the Extended School Year Program. ESY provides services to students who require more significant learning. The EL summer program will allow students to have the opportunity to attend both programs. More information will be provided at the Family Information Night.

Mr. Beltrante reported on the high school summer program, which will be offered for credit recovery to reinforce learning. A variety of courses will be offered, including a Geometry course for acceleration. Dr. Gretchen reported on the middle school summer program, which will reinforce learning. Subjects including ELA, Math and Science will be offered. Dr. Pitone reported on the elementary summer program. This program is offered to address the gaps in learning in ELA and Math.

Courses will run 3 hours in the AM session and 3 hours in the PM session. They will be offered Monday through Thursday for five weeks. Families will be asked to confirm a commitment for participation. There will be no cost to the families, with the exception of Accelerated Geometry, which will incur a small fee.

Mr. Oberecker and Dr. Pitone reported on the K-12 virtual options. This will be based on student interest. It includes Book Club with Tuesdays and Thursdays as in-class sessions and asynchronous work. The book club will include required summer reading books. An elementary STEM learning remote session is being discussed. Grades 1-5 may participate in anytime learning program. It will be 100% asynchronous, self-paced and students will receive an access code. Access will be through Schoology and will focus on PAE standards.

An email account, summerlearning@mnsd.org, will be set up to address any questions regarding the summer learning opportunities. Information will be available on the school district website. The recording of this presentation is available in the Teaching and Learning portion of the website.

VI. Motions

All motions will be moved along to the Board Meeting. This includes the motion for the Memorial Garden added to the agenda this evening.

March 2021 CIT Motions

Athletic Trips:

- A. Motion to approve Mr. McCullough, Girls Swim Coach, to accompany 5 students from the high school swim team to travel to the Graham Aquatic Center in York, Pennsylvania to compete in the PIAA Swimming District Championships. This took place on Thursday, February 25, 2021 and Friday, February 26, 2021. The cost of transportation is \$135.00. The cost of food is \$35.00. The cost of the hotel is \$174.20. The total cost to the district is \$344.20.**

- B. Motion to approve Mr. Cessna, Boys Swim Coach, to accompany 1 student from the high school swim team to travel to the Graham Aquatic Center in York, Pennsylvania to compete in the PIAA Swimming District Championships. This took place on Saturday, February 27, 2021. The cost of transportation is \$756.83. The cost of food is \$50.00. The total cost to the district is \$806.83.**
- C. Motion to approve Ms. Murray, Girls Diving Coach, to accompany 1 student from the high school diving team to travel to Cumberland Valley High School in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania to compete in the PIAA Diving State Championships on Friday, March 12, 2021 and Saturday, March 13, 2021. The cost of transportation is \$137.88. The cost of food is \$60.00. The cost of the hotel is \$209.28. The total cost to the district is \$407.16.**

Clubs:

- D. Motion to approve the Esports Club at Marple Newtown High School. The purpose of this club is for students to be given the opportunity to play, talk, promote and interact with other students who share similar video game interests. Also, they will create several Esports teams to compete against other schools in the area and potentially further away. The club advisors are Andrew Butler, Scott Wanner, Nicole Hazelwood and Ronald Braverman.**

Book Disposals:

- E. Motion to approve the disposal of the attached list of books from the MNHS library.**

Memorial Garden:

- F. Motion to approve the removal of bushes on both sides of Worrall School's Library in preparation for a proposed memorial garden for Matthew Wzorek on the school grounds. To approve the funding support of Worrall PTO for any materials needed for this garden, amount TBD, not to exceed \$1500. To approve the volunteer time, services, and materials of Del Vacchio Landscape & Christmas Décor, 922 N Chester Road, West Chester, PA 19380, as this garden is planned and installed.**

Public Comment

A parent questioned why a Chester County company was contacted to do the memorial tribute at Worrall. The landscaper resides in the district and has children who attend Worrall. This was set up through the Worrall PTO. The company will be donating their time and materials at no cost.

A parent questioned which enriched courses would be offered over the summer month programs. Dr. Pitone responded that the courses are enriching on a personal nature, but they are not the advanced courses for acceleration. The only accelerated course that will be offered is Geometry.

A parent questioned the summer school distinction for a special needs student with IEP recommendation. Dr. Logue reported that Extended School Year Program runs for five weeks, and the focus is on the individual child's goals listed in their IEP, not the summer school goals.

A parent questioned if students will be permitted to keep the laptops if participating in a summer session. Dr. Kane and Mr. Driscoll responded that this is currently in discussion. Students in grades 5, 8 and 12 will be returning laptops. Students in Grades 5 and 8 will receive the laptops at their new school next year, and seniors will need to return their device. Insurance issues were discussed, including if a family cannot afford the insurance. Mr. Driscoll responded that there are protocols currently in place to assist these families.

Mr. Bilker commented that the district is very excited to be implementing the full five day week, in person learning, for students beginning next week. He reported that the School Board and Committee Meetings will be returning to "live forum" rather than virtual beginning with the next Board Meeting scheduled for March 23, 2021. Dr. Kane reported that the meetings will return in person at the high school to ensure safe social distancing protocols.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Vannicolo
Secretary
Teaching and Learning Department