

TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of the Education Committee Meeting
Board Room, Trinity Hall
10:00 a.m. – July 27, 2011

Members of the Committee: Dennis McWreath (Chairperson); John Keisling; Dorothy Tecklenburg and JoAnn Standish

Committee members present: Dennis McWreath and JoAnn Standish

Board member present: Tamara Salvatori

Others present: Paul T. Kasunich, Superintendent; Don Snoke, High School Principal; Cindy Garda, High School Guidance Counselor; Heather Watson, Elementary Guidance Counselor; Beth Tully and Michelle Ostrosky, Elementary Principals; and Judy Walz, recording secretary. Also present was Mary Jo Podgurski, Teen Outreach

Community members present were: Gordon Lowry, Jennifer Morgan, Brenda Williamson, Mary Ann Berty, Susan Yeager, Anne Fisher, Kelly Shaw, Mollie Deegan, Bea Bebout, Lisa O'Brian, Rebecca Greer and Marlene Wilson

The meeting was called to order by Mr. McWreath, Chairperson, at 10:00 a.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Mrs. Podgurski, Ms. Watson and Mrs. Garda reported on the status of the Olweus Bullying Prevention program. Mrs. Podgurski indicated that the individual building trainings were complete and that the program was being funded through grants. Mrs. Garda indicated that the curriculum would be updated to include the program by September 1 and that the program would be implemented throughout the district by September 30.

Mr. McWreath reviewed the elementary class tally report, noting that enrollment at Trinity North in third and fifth grades were of concern. He indicated that it would be the recommendation of the committee to add one third grade and one fifth grade class to North, thereby recalling two of teachers who had been furloughed. Also discussed were class sizes at Trinity South in fourth and fifth grades and at Trinity East in third grade.

Mr. Snoke reviewed the high school class tally report, noting that failures and summer school participants need to be considered. He noted that Mandarin Chinese would not be offered through the technical school as previously reported as only three students enrolled, and that other options were being considered.

Discussion was held regarding arena scheduling. Dr. Kasunich noted that the same process was used at the middle school and that pre-AP Science was being introduced.

Dr. Kasunich indicated that ABG funds would be used for class size reduction.

Discussion was held regarding the need for a certified reading support teacher at Trinity East.

Also discussed was the use of 4Sight for flexible grouping and homeroom assignments. Dr. Tully noted that the results were used to assign students to homerooms in order to achieve balance and that flexible grouping is done in math only at this time. Dr. Kasunich noted time restraints in the elementary buildings since the implementation of Olweus, the addition of physical education classes and the use of flexible grouping and indicated that the school day should be extended.

Dr. Kasunich also reported on the Stakeholders Survey noting the top ten concerns of parents, teachers and students. He indicated that the survey would be posted on the website. He also discussed the viability of bringing the International Baccalaureate Program to Trinity Area.

Discussion was held regarding offering a web based SAT Prep Class. The contract with Seneca Valley to offer a cyber program was discussed. Dr. Kasunich indicated that a revised contract was being reviewed by the solicitor.

Bea Bebout commented on the impact of furloughing clerical aides particularly effecting the copying needs of the teachers.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.