

TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of the
Education Committee Meeting
March 9, 2011 10:00 a.m.
Board Room, Trinity Hall

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

Committee members present: Dennis McWreath, John Keisling, Dorothy Tecklenburg and JoAnn Standish

Board members present: Tamara Salvatori and Ronald Harton

Others present: Paul Kasunich, Superintendent, Don Snoke, High School Principal and Judy Walz, recording secretary.

Community members present were: Ken Bonnell, Canton Township; Diane Ecker, South Strabane Township and Brenda Williamson, South Strabane Township

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

Dr. Kasunich and Mr. Snoke gave an update on AP Classes with 15 or fewer students, indicating that there were no changes from their previous report. Discussion was held regarding classes being offered on-line.

The Terra Nova test was discussed. Dr. Kasunich indicated that the test had not been administered to second graders this year and that Mr. Minnick was looking at other options. Mr. Keisling noted that he felt the District needs to administer a National assessment. Dr. Kasunich stated that Mr. Minnick would have a report ready for the next committee meeting.

Dr. Kasunich reported on the curriculum cycle. He indicated that there would be a change in Social Studies texts at the elementary level. Mr. Snoke noted that the adoption of Social Studies texts had been delayed a year at the secondary level. Mr. McWreath requested that Mrs. Weaver be present at the next committee meeting to discuss the Social Studies curriculum.

Dr. Kasunich indicated that he intended to make a recommendation to the Board at the March 17 meeting to move 82 students from Trinity West Elementary to Trinity North Elementary in an effort to alleviate overcrowding at Trinity West. Mr. McWreath noted that he felt this was a temporary fix and that the district should be reconfigured. Mr. Keisling spoke in support of maintaining the present configuration. Discussion was held regarding the need for more analysis of reconfiguring the entire district. Mr. McWreath requested updated enrollment for all four elementary buildings after moving the 84 students from West to North.

Mr. Keisling addressed the committee concerning adding physical education classes K-12. He noted that elementary gymnasiums were used only half time. He also spoke in support of excusing student athletes from physical education classes. Mrs. Tecklenburg questioned the phys ed curriculum. Mr. McWreath questioned the addition of music classes as well. Mrs. Salvatori questioned why Kindergarten students has special class on a rotating basis. Mr. McWreath requested that the administration report at the next meeting on the possibility of adding phys ed and music classes, as well as kindergarten being offered the same schedule as other grade levels.

Mr. Snoke answered the committee in regard to changes in graduation requirements since May of 2008. He indicated that students are required to complete community service, job shadowing, career exploration and complete a written paper. He supported Mr. McWreath's suggestion that requirements for 3 years of Math and Science should be increased to 4 years. The committee requested a report on how the requirements could be increased.

Mrs. Salvatori discussed the cut-off date for entry to kindergarten.

Mr. McWreath noted the announcement of the Governor's budget cuts and what implications that would have on the District.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.