

TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of the
EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
November 11, 2013
Board Room – Trinity Hall

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Committee members present: Jennifer Morgan, Penny Caleffe, Jennifer Lanas, Dana Ledger, Andy Migyanko, Sarah Nee, Nicole Bockstoce and Brandon Robinson

Also present: Dr. Paul Kasunich, Superintendent; Dr. Michael Lucas, Assistant Superintendent; Donald Snoke, High School Principal; Cindy Garda and Erica Hughes, High School Guidance Counselors; Alicia Richey, Mathematics Department Representative; Christina White, Middle School Math teacher; and residents Frances Eates, Natalie Johnson, Joseph Losko, Tracy Tatar, Heather Luzar and Carrie Miller

Public Comment

Residents shared concerns over the third grade class sizes at Trinity South Elementary. See agenda item below)

First Semester in High School Program (Robert Morris and Washington & Jefferson)

Dr. Kasunich shared potential opportunities for high school students. He distributed information packets and a news article on schools working with Robert Morris.

American School Counselor Association Curriculum

Mrs. Garda and Ms. Hughes presented the Trinity Area Guidance Counselor curriculum. They passed out copies of the curriculum and answered questions. A question was raised about Red Ribbon Week in the elementary schools. The possibility of participating in Red Ribbon Week next year will be investigated.

Mathematics

Ms. Richey, Mrs. Ledger, and Ms. White discussed changes to mathematics sequence – grades 5 through 12. They distributed samples of each grade’s progression and identified paths. They proposed changes to the Acceleration Policy, 215.1. The paths and suggested policy revision will be shared with the Board in January.

Writing Update – Elementary

Ms. Bockstoce presented writing initiatives at the elementary buildings.

Retention Policy/Summer School

Dr. Lucas distributed the current Retention Policy – 215. The possibility of mandatory summer school was discussed. It was determined that the Education Committee will use Google Docs to create a draft for the committee to review. There was discussion of holding two sessions of summer school to accommodate family vacations. Also discussed was the need for separate criteria for the elementary, middle school and high school levels. Concerns and issues were discussed.

Autistic Support Programs

Mr. Robinson, Trinity West, shared enhancements to the Autistic Support classroom, which include technical upgrades including I-pads and a Promethean Board.

Third Grade Class Size – Trinity South

Current enrollment numbers were shared with the committee. Parents from South Elementary raised concerns over the number of students in the third grade classrooms. They cited safety reasons and concerns referring to students with emotional needs in the classrooms. They shared their children's accounts of alleged disruptive and dangerous events in the classroom. They expressed concern over the lack of individual attention. Dr. Lucas will investigate the alleged disruptive events and have the principal investigate and report back to the School Board. Board members shared their individual opinions on the class sizes. They also discussed classrooms in other buildings where the enrollment is not ideal. The School Board will decide if classrooms will be added.

New Business

None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m. No meeting will be held in December.

<p>Committee members: Tamara Salvatori, Chairperson; Jennifer Morgan, Penny Caleffe, Jennifer Lanas, Dana Ledger, Andy Migyanko, Sarah Nee, Nicole Bockstoce, Brandon Robinson</p>
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