

TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

EDUCATION
COMMITTEE MEETING
Minutes April 6, 2015
Board Room – Trinity Hall

Attendees: Mrs. Morgan, Mr. Durbin, Mrs. Paluda, Mrs. Lanas, Mr. Migyanko, Dr. Lucas, Mrs. Bockstoce, Mrs. McCullough, Mrs. Drexler, Mr. Kelley and Mrs. Schreibeis.

- I. Call to Order
- II. 2015-2016 Middle School program changes and Power Block

Mr. Keruskin presented the proposal for changes at the Trinity Middle School specifics included adding computer coding and gaming classes, reduction of Physical Education offerings and the possibility of offering swimming during the power block period at TMS. Mr. Snoke addressed the issue of cost savings through attrition and eliminating staff positions which are vacant versus cutting a program and furloughing staff. Additionally Mr. Snoke discussed the fact that the Board has restructured the district debt, maximized the taxing capability and still had to deal with roughly \$300,000.00 shortfall necessary to balance the budget. This inherited situation has been dealt with on multiple fronts. The choice is obvious but not easy, as the vacant positions will not be filled versus program elimination and furlough. Mr. Snoke addressed the transfer of a THS Business Teacher to TMS, as well as moving a TMS Music Teacher to THS to teach Band and Chorus. The level of service was discussed at both buildings. Changes at TMS include no swimming classes during the regular school day. No General Music class in 7th Grade, and the integration of the 7th and 8th grade band and chorus. Changes at THS include offering potentially one study skills class, and offering guitar and piano for students, but no freshman would be scheduled into either class.

- III. Teachers using facilities before/after school and summer for tutoring –
Mr. Snoke presented that on June 30, 2009 there was a board motion allowing Trinity Area School District teachers to use the facilities for after school tutoring free of charge. The board will rescind that motion and make a new motion that all staff and non-staff members wishing to utilize school district facilities must follow the Use of Facilities Policy 707, 709 and 710.
- IV. Changes to graduation requirements and student obligations –
Mr. Snoke presented the proposed change for WACTC students needing four years of science and social studies. The students will need to successfully earn three credits in social studies and science. However the students will still need to obtain 23.5 credits to graduate.

- V. Puberty discussion at elementary schools –
Dr. Tully discussed the need for an informal program to address the developmental needs of the young female students at Trinity North Elementary. The female students today are dealing with menarche at a younger age. Often they are not equipped by their familial entities to deal with these issues. The conversation expanded to include the issues at all four elementary buildings. We will develop a response to address this situation in this district.
- VI. JROTC: program overview, current eligibility, and 2015-16 enrollment–
Major Clacks presented the components of the JROTC program. Ms. Knabb and Mr. Larkin presented the benefits of being in the JROTC. Major Clacks reported that the enrollment for 2015-2016 is 102. Mr. Snoke reported that currently there are 3 students ineligible due to grades and 1 student due to excessive absenteeism, under the new eligibility policy.
- VII. Project based assessments: PDE requirements, schedule changes, and cost savings –
Mr. Snoke discussed the Keystone requirements for non-proficient students who have exhausted their opportunities to take the Keystone Exam, having to complete a project aligned with standards. The issue is the mandated remediation for students prior to taking a re-test and beginning the project. Adjustments in the Biology structure and TMS components were also discussed.
- VIII. Public Comment - 1
Mrs. Emery-Gillo discussed the needs at the elementary concerning the developmental issues with the young female students and menarche. She also stated that she needs to be in her health room as the needs of the students are much greater than they have been in the past.
- IX. New Business
 - May meeting – elementary preliminary enrollment numbers – Mr. Minnick
- X. Adjournment

Committee members:
Jennifer Morgan, Chairperson, Penny Caleffe, Tom Durbin
Jennifer Lanas, Andy Migyanko, Jennifer Paluda, Nicole Bockstoe, Stephen Kelley,
Karen Drexler, Connie Schreibeis, Stacey McCullough