

TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of the
EDUCATION
COMMITTEE MEETING
March 2, 2015
Board Room, Trinity Hall

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by the Chairperson, Jennifer Morgan.

Committee members present were: Jennifer Morgan, Chairperson, Tom Durbin, Jennifer Lanas, Nicole Bockstoce, Jennifer Paluda, Stephen Kelley, Karen Drexler, Connie Schreibeis, Andy Migyanko, Stacey McCullough, Dr. Michael Lucas, Superintendent, and Mr. Donald Snoke, Assistant Superintendent

Absent: Penny Caleffe

Public Comment

None

Vocational Agriculture Program - Mr. Snoke shared the VoAg courses being offered in the 2015 – 2016 school year. He explained the SAE project that VoAg students are required to complete.

Comprehensive Plan - Dr. Lucas reviewed the goals, strategies, and action steps in the Comprehensive Plan. He shared that Trinity Area will be planning the Differentiated Instruction phase. Understanding by Design and Collins Writing will be used as tools to differentiate instruction in each classroom. Dr. Lucas provided a history of the instructional themes from 2011 on. He reviewed the success of stages 1 and 2 of the Understanding by Design framework. Credit was given to the teachers and the principals.

UbD Stage 3 implementation - Understanding by Design training and planning will begin March 20. Dr. Constance Palmer will return to meet with principals and department chairs. The training and implementation will take place in the 2015-2016 school year.

Collins Writing - In an effort to use a K-12 systematic approach to teaching writing, Trinity Area plans to adopt Collins Writing. Principals and Language Arts Department chairs attended the workshops. They indicated that Collins Writing will enhance our teaching of writing strategies. Kristen Shaw, Jennifer Yim, Michelle Ostrosky, and Don Snoke discussed Collins Writing and the benefits of the program.

Study Island/CDT - Instructional time used for assessments was identified as a concern. The pros and cons to using a program like Study Island were discussed. Concerns about how the data is used was shared. Mr. Keruskin and teachers on the Education Committee shared ways they use Study Island and provided feedback about the Class Diagnostic Tool. Study Island being assigned as homework was also discussed by the group.

Amended Math Tracks – Mr. Snoke presented an adjustment to the Math Tracks to enable eighth grade students to have an additional option rather than doubling up courses. Mr. Snoke shared the tracks and explained the justification for the modification.

New Business

Mr. Snoke reported that 20 students placed first in the PJAS competition and will go on to compete at the state level at Penn State University. Additionally, six students came in second place and two students came in third place.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

<p style="text-align: center;">Committee members: Jennifer Morgan, Chairperson, Penny Caleffe, Tom Durbin Jennifer Lanas, Andy Migyanko, Jennifer Paluda, Nicole Bockstoce, Stephen Kelley, Karen Dexler, Connie Schreibeis, Stacy McCullough</p>
