



TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Mr. Donald L. Snoke
Assistant Superintendent of Schools
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Education Committee Meeting Minutes February 1, 2016

Call to Order 5:00PM

Public Comment

Mr. John had questions concerning the issue with TMS math and the transition to THS. Mrs. Morgan stated we would be addressing these questions during the agenda item #6 presentation.

1. STEAM updates/Fabrication lab updates
Mr. Snoke presented a current status of the STEAM initiatives and the progress for the Fab Lab. Currently the district is moving forward and the location has been designated. The Fab Lab should be operational beginning with the first day of school for the 2016-2017 school year. Approximately \$53,000 has been procured through grant funding. The plan will be to offer a course in Fab Lab as well as to bring students in to observe the operation of the Fab Lab.
2. Vo-Ag course offerings 16-17
Trinity now has 3 additional teachers certified in Vocational Agriculture. The new programs of study offered through the TASD are Agricultural Mechanics and Horticulture. The window for PDE CIP proposals opens February 9, 2016. The teachers will begin writing the program curriculum and seeking approval. The two Agriculture Mechanics classes offered in 2016-2017 are Intro to Ag Mechanics and Agricultural Construction. The new course being offered in Horticulture is Intro to Horticulture. An addition of an 8X12 storage shed will be necessary to house the small engines and gasoline outside of the school building. If the Ag Mechanics program grows the district may need to build a separate garage adjacent to the greenhouse to house equipment.
3. Career training activities middle school and high schoolguidance counselor's role
Mr. Keruskin and Mr. Samosky presented a comprehensive examination of the guidance services and career support to the committee. Special care was given to addressing the amount of time counselor spend directly with students. Mr. Samosky provided a short video concerning a program called Navience which assist students in career choices and tracks them following graduation.
4. Penn Commercial Update- program 16-17 options for students, credits, electives, number of students
Mr. Samosky delivered information concerning the logistics of the partnership with Penn Commercial and the benefits to students. Penn Commercial has been exceptional providing services to the Trinity High School students, even proposing to provide free transportation to allow a student to attend Penn Commercial in a dual enrollment capacity. An assembly was held to enlighten the students to the new options from Penn Commercial.

5. One-to-One Chromebook Initiative 9-12

Mr. Snoke presented the administration's recommendation to move forward with a true 1-to-1 initiative with Chromebooks provided to every 9-12 student. The Math, Science and English classes already own the rights for digital curriculum and resources for the 9-12 courses. The Social Studies department currently has the rights to 9th and 10th grade digital curriculum and resources. On February 11, 2016, the social studies department will meet with publishing representatives to examine and choose a digital curriculum and resources vendor. The proposal is to enter into a 4 year TEIS lease with a \$1 buyout for 1070 Chromebooks and to self-insure. Currently the district spent \$78,000 per year for 580 Chromebooks for Grades 9 and 10. The new lease would be for 1070 Chromebooks for \$68,000 for grades 9-12. The administration is recommending self-insurance of the Chromebooks. This recommendation entails setting aside \$20,000 in Year 1-3 and \$10,000 in year four to maintain and replace the Chromebooks. Students are responsible for neglect or intentional damage to the Chromebook, as there are for any other school properties; i.e. textbooks, desks and calculators. No sign-off is necessary. The board is scheduled to vote on this recommendation on February 4, 2016.

6. Math Scope and Sequence – Curriculum Offerings

Mr. Snoke discussed the alignment issues with the TMS and THS classes are being examined and a recommendation will be coming from the math department shortly. The difficulty arose due to regulations on common core standards for the PSSA requirements and common core standards for Keystone requirements being drastically different. This is made more complicated based upon the fact that the colleges and the NCAA Clearinghouse are not concerned with common core standards. The math department must start with the end in mind and backward design the curriculum while aligning with required common core standards and PDE directives. Governor Wolf delayed the Keystone Graduation Requirements and as such the Trinity Area School District is taking this opportunity to re-examine the math scope and sequence. There will be two parent meetings during the week of February 22, 2016 to address the math issues. The first meeting will examine the transition from 5th grade to 6th grade and math options for correct course selection to insure rigor and relevance for all students. The second meeting will discuss the math curriculum at Trinity Middle School, course selection, sequencing and the transition to the high school. The departments will be given release time to solidify the situation before the meetings of the week of February 22, 2016.

7. Reimbursement for AP Tests Scores of 4 and 5

Mr. Snoke and Dr. Lucas reminded the Education Committee that the Board of Directors had previously approved reimbursing parents/guardians/students for the cost of an AP test whereas a student scored a 4 or 5. The committee supported continuing this practice.

Mrs. Morgan asked the number of students who scored a 4 or 5 on the AP Test last year and the dollar amount for reimbursement. The answer to that question is ...

2013-2014 School Year 34 students received reimbursement for 66 tests for a total of \$5,746.00
2014-2015 School Year 43 students received reimbursement for 54 tests for a total of \$4,824.00

8. Upcoming Staff Developments

Mr. Snoke presented the upcoming staff development activities and schedule...

February 11, 2016

K-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences

9-12 Social Studies and Math will be in departments 8:00AM– 3:00PM

9-12 Dr. Ventura dealing with Difficult Students, Emotional Support Issues 8:00AM– 11:00AM

Department Meeting 12:00PM – 3:00PM

February 12, 2016

K-12 Staff at THS for Dr. Constance Palmer – UbD Stage III and Learning Targets
8:00AM – 11:00AM and 12:00PM – 3:00PM THS Cafeteria

April 1, 2016

K-12 at THS for Dr. John Collins and Dr. Gary Chadwell
“Writing Across the Curriculum”

THS will be hosting educators from other districts as was done previously to help offset the cost for the presenters.

Old Business

New Business

Adjournment 5:50 PM

Attendance/Present: Mrs. Jennifer Morgan, Mr. Tom Durbin, Mr. Penny Caleffe, Mr. Greg Rudman, Mr. Frank Golsky, Mrs. Stacey McCullough, Dr. Michael Lucas, Mr. Donald Snoke, Mr. Tom Samosky, Mr. Peter Keruskin, Mr. Bob Sroka, Mrs. Brandi Coyle, Mrs. Diane Huffner, Mr. Craig Uram, Mrs. Connie Schreibeis, Mr. Nick Phillips, Mr. David Johnson and Mr. Gordon Lowry