

TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING
February 6, 2017
Board Room – Trinity Hall 5:00 PM

Minutes

1. Call to Order by Mrs. Morgan 5:01 PM
2. QZAB Academies – Mr. Snoke explained the concept of the QZAB Academies and the upgrades in Technology at T. North, T. West and T. Middle School. The implementation and utilization of STEAM based hardware, software and maker space philosophies will help expand the educational opportunities for our students. The technology for North, West and the Middle School was removed from the general budget and incorporated in the QZAB funding. Dr. Lucas presented a power point detailing the huge investment in technology and STEAM based programs.
3. Science Fair – Mr. Sroka presented the general consensus of the Education Committee concerning the elimination of the Boards for the science fair competition. This will save approximately \$1,500.00 per building. Options were presented to have the student complete the research in the school setting and conduct the experimentation outside of the school day. The students would return to school with their data and then they would construct a representation of their findings. Mrs. Morgan presented an option for the students to complete their research project in a small group in school by accessing you tube or other virtual experimentation to view experiments and gather data. The discussion centered on a significant population of students
4. Swim Elective – Middle School – Mr. Snoke introduced Mrs. Ostrosky and Mr. Lauver to discuss the addition of the swim elective.
5. Middle School Schedule Options and Course Offering Options – Mrs. Ostrosky and Mr. Lauver discussed the following preliminary changes for the TMS Schedule and Course Offerings...Please see attached. Several middle teachers expressed concerns about the 6 day rotation and student attendance. Additionally the FCS and Art teachers stated they had not been contacted concerning any schedule changes or alternative course offerings. TMS will expand their guidance options and preventative strategies. Mrs. Ostrosky stated that this was a preliminary examination and a possible solution to a variety of issues the middle school faces with scheduling and discipline. Mrs. McCullough expressed concern about lost instruction for student athletes and leaving early. Mr. Phillips expressed several middle school teacher's concerns about the proposed changes. Mrs. Lind stated she was concerned that if music was an elective no one would take the courses. Mrs. Morgan also expressed concerns about students missing class time for athletics. Mrs. Eates discussed the issue of homework volume and requirements. Additionally Mrs. Eates discussed the problems associated with poor planning and team communication as to having two or more projects due on the same day at the middle school. The discussion ended with Mrs. Morgan stating the middle school administration and teachers will continue to work collaboratively to develop an appropriate schedule and course offerings.

6. Report Cards – Mr. Snoke – Inquired as to any issues with posting the report cards online as opposed to printing and sending home with students. Mrs. Emery-Gillo stated she believed that TASD should print the elementary report cards as some students lack familial support for academics or otherwise. However, parent complaints were minimal.
7. Education – Fab Lab/Tour – Mr. Snoke discussed the opening celebration for the THS Fab Lab. The tentative date is Monday, February 27, 2017 at THS from 2 to 3 pm. The date must be moved to February 28 or March 1, 2017. A reception will include refreshments and a demonstration of students in action.
8. Keystone – Algebra – Mr. Snoke discussed the need to change the Keystone Test trigger course from Algebra II to Algebra I, as per a directive from PDE. Mr. Phillips discussed the efforts to redesign the courses to meet the needs of the students and remain aligned with the high school to maintain a solid curricular basis. At issue is the state requiring testing for PSSA and Keystone in the same course.
9. Science Grant – Dr. Lucas discussed the PLTW Grant from Chevron. The grant will fund science curriculum, STEAM initiatives and technology for the middle school and elementary students. We will eliminate various science matters kits which will save approximately \$30,000.00 from the general budget
10. SAT Prep – Tom Samosky – Mr. Samosky discussed the availability of providing online resources for students to better prepare for the SAT. Trinity will not require certified to facilitate this course. This course is non-graded and non-credit. The course will level the playing field for students, regardless of their economic capabilities.
11. Naviance – Tom Samosky – This program has increased the academic rigor and relevance for a multitude of students. These student will be better prepared for future academic and affective experiences. Students will increase their capacity for career and college readiness. Naviance has been implemented at the middle school level.
12. Public Comment - None
13. New Business – Mr. Samosky reported that Mrs. Migyanko would like to participate in the TEALS Program which partners members of the school community workforce with students to demonstrate real life applications of the curricular and academic experiences.
14. Adjournment – 6:25 p.m.

Chairperson: Mrs. Jennifer Morgan

Attending: Mrs. Morgan, Mr. Snoke, Dr. Lucas, Mr. Samosky, Mrs. Ostrosky, Mr. Lauver, Mrs. Eates, Mr. Rudman, Ms. Burchett, Mrs. Emery-Gillo, Mr. Lowry, Mrs. Margaria, Mrs. Blackhurst, Mrs. Recktenwald, Mrs. Oliverio, Mrs. Maund and Mr. White.

Trinity Middle School

Proposed Schedule Changes

2017–18 School Year

Synopsis

Trinity Middle School has an opportunity to add swimming

After reviewing a number of rotation-based schedules (4-, 5-, and 6-day rotations), a 6-day rotation was selected, due to the positive benefits for student selection and the minimal impact on a majority of currently-offered courses.

The swimming course also offered an opportunity to look at revising, restructuring, and expanding our course offerings within our current staffing levels. As part of the Fab Lab expansion, an emphasis was placed on ways to expand STEAM offerings to students that offer project-based, hands on learning.

What is NOT changing?

- 8 period day
- 30-minute grade level lunch remains
- Data Block & Exploratory will still be 30-minutes long
- All Pennsylvania School Code mandates are met
- Students will have access to curriculum in on-team courses (Reading, Math, English, Science, Social Studies), as well as Unified Arts, Music, and Physical Education.

What are the proposed changes?

- *6-day rotation*
 - Students will receive all on-team courses daily.
 - The 9-week and 12-week rotations will be eliminated
 - Students will continue to receive instruction in Unified Arts, CC Text Analysis, Computer Applications, and Computer Programming. However, these courses will now meet a specific number of days per 6-day cycle (see attachment).
 - Music ensembles will continue to meet on 50% of days.
 - Health/Physical Education
 - 6th/7th Grades will receive Physical Education 2 of every 6 days, with Health on another day of the cycle.
 - 8th Graders will receive Physical Education 3 of every 6 days. Eighth graders will no longer receive Health.
- *Eighth Grade General Music will be eliminated.*
 - Students not in a music ensemble will receive an Environmental Science class that will incorporate STEAM and the Fab Lab into its curriculum.

Trinity Middle School

Proposed Schedule Changes

2017–18 School Year

- *Sixth Grade General Music*
 - Will focus largely on hands-on concepts in our Piano Lab
 - Eliminate the lecture-based nature of the course.
- *Addition of a Guidance course in 7th and 8th grades*
 - Meets 1 day per 6-day cycle.
 - These courses will be taught by the Guidance Counselors, and the schedule will be structured so that one guidance counselor is available for students requiring immediate attention.
- *Restructuring of 7th Grade Unified Arts Program*
 - **Programming 7--1** of 6 days (moving from Language rotation to UA)
 - **Art 7--2** of 6 days
 - **IT 7--2** of 6 days
 - **FCS 7--1** of 6 days
- *Restructuring of the 7th Grade Languages rotation*
 - **Project Lead the Way/STEAM** (2 modules per year, meeting 3 of 6 days)
 - **Guidance--1** of 6 days
 - **Math Skills Improvement (MSI)--2** of 6 days. This will be required for all students who are Basic/Below Basic on the 6th Grade PSSA, or are within the “bubble” range of Proficiency (TBD on range). This is a necessity to meet the obligations of the new Future Ready PA Index, requiring grade level proficiency in Math in Grade 7.
 - **Electives**
 - Swimming--2 of 6 days for 1 semester.
 - Exploratory German--2 of 6 days for 1 semester.
 - Exploratory Spanish--2 of 6 days for 1 semester.
- **Addition of 8th Grade STEAM experiences, and restructuring of 8th Grade Unified Arts experience.**
 - A course aligned to Project Lead the Way curricula (as per the grant awarded to TASD) will be added, using the Fab Lab and technology areas.
 - Students will receive an Art course that focuses on design and multimedia.
 - Students will receive an IT course that continues to extend the Fabrication and STEAM opportunities.
 - Students will have an option of FCS/Art electives:
 - Culinary Arts
 - Sewing Lab
 - Studio Art
- **Elimination of Administrative Homeroom.** Student attendance will occur in Period 1, adding 7 minutes to the instructional day. This will also aid students needing additional help with organization prior to dismissal.
- **Data Block and Exploratory moves to after Period 5/8th Grade Lunch.** We see this as an opportunity to refocus and burn off energy after lunches and before the PM instructional block.