

## TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, November 13, 2017

5:00 PM TASD Board Room

#### Minutes

1. Call to Order – 5:00 PM
  2. WACTC Academic Performance Update - Mary DeProspero-Adams. Mrs. DeProspero-Adams presented the NOCTI and the NIMS testing options for students. WACTC scored the highest they have ever scored in the NOCTI. The students take a NOCTI pre-test for baseline data. The students take these tests again at the end of their career. The students have only one opportunity to pass test. The data did not present a strong correlation of absenteeism influencing scores. Mrs. DeProspero-Adams invited all parties present to come to WACTC to observe their programs.
  3. New Course “21<sup>st</sup> Century Presentation and Stage Awareness” – Mrs. Berty. Mrs. Berty presented a proposal for a new 1 semester course entitled, “21<sup>st</sup> Century Presentation and Stage Awareness”. The course would assist students in honing their skillsets in the area of writing, listening and speaking utilizing a variety of technologies. Additionally, soft skills would be addressed which would help students present themselves in a most professional manner, such as interviewing, research and public speaking.
  4. Benedum Foundation Grant – THS – Mrs. Malia Bennett. Mrs. Bennett presented the Makers Mart Course which thrusts the student into the world of advertising. Students will identify business they believe need new and/or fresh advertising or promotional campaigns. The students will meet with outside entities and they will explore and develop appropriate and effective marketing slogans or ads. Students will work 9 weeks in the business technology department and 9 weeks in the art department. The students will develop a comprehensive solution for the real-world situations business or entrepreneurs face. Mrs. Bennett will work closely with Mrs. Husk in this scenario.
  5. Washington Financial Foundation Grant – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade iPads – Mr. Snoke. Mr. Snoke explained the beginnings of a relationship with the Washington Financial Charitable Foundation. This beginning occurred two years ago when Dr. Lucas and Mr. Snoke received a grant from the Washington County Community Foundation. Mike Chaido, asked why we did not participate with the WFCF grant experience. At Dr. Lucas’ direction Mr. Snoke submitted a grant that afternoon and Trinity was approved for \$25,000. That funding was used to purchase 2<sup>nd</sup> grade iPads. Recently another grant application was submitted and Trinity received \$18,200 for the purchase of 55 3<sup>rd</sup> grade iPads
- Text Dependent Analysis – Mr. Snoke. Mr. Snoke explained that students are being taught how to close read and respond critically while demonstrating control of their grammar and writing skills.

- When TDA's first came out we sent teachers to a training at the IU.
  - The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers have been trained on how to read and score TDA's after attending a DRC workshop
  - Teachers have worked together to formulate a plan utilizing graphic organizers to plan their responses – this trickles all the way down into the primary grades
  - We have worked with Texas A & M to help build comprehension strategies
  - Teachers have met in grade level to find appropriate resources for close reading as well as rewrite assessments questions
  - A team of teachers went to the IU on Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> to find additional information about the TDA's and what the state expects
    - The average score in the tri-county area is a 5 meaning that most students only scored 4 points on the TDA (which is equivalent to a 1 on the rubric).
    - The TDA rubric is a holistic rubric which not only accounts for the actual analytical response, but the writing is scored as well and even with a correct response – the writing can lower the score for the student
  - Teachers are incorporating TDA's into their weekly lesson plans mainly through the use of Newsela in the elementary.
  - Mr. Damaska has been working with the ELA teachers at TMS to incorporate strategies across grade levels. He will be working with content area teachers to familiarize them with the strategies as well so students get the practice in with informational text.
  - Ms. Kelly Shaw, Mrs. Connie Schreiber, Mrs. Crawford and Mrs. Bockstoe discussed their application of TDA and preparation for TDAs.
6. Flex Grouping – Mr. Snoke. Mr. Snoke explained the current status of Flex Grouping at the elementary level, very limited. Mr. Snoke recently met with the elementary principals and several solutions were presented. Flex grouping within a grade level, within multiple grade levels, restructuring the day or class schedules were examined. The administration and staff will continue exploring options for implementation. Several site visits to neighboring schools are planned. Thinking outside of the box is necessary to provide additional learning opportunities for our students. Mrs. Morgan discussed the Flex Grouping strategies she has utilized. Mr. Snoke emphasized there would be no reduction in lunch or recess and these down times are necessary and beneficial as well. Play can be an effective learning environment in itself.
  7. Changes to PSSA – Mr. Snoke – Mr. Snoke discussed the changes in the standardized test for PSSA Grade 3 – 8. There is a significant reduction in the number of multiple choice questions as well as the open ended questions. The testing time will be reduced, which is significant. Mrs. Morgan asked questions about the writing changes. There is an elimination of the writing testing modes specific prompts. The TDAs will test comprehension response and include the writing aspect as well.
  8. Public Comment - None
  9. New Business – Dr. Lucas discussed the JROTC article in the Observer Reporter. November 29, 2017 from 1:00 – 3:00 PM will be the Freight Farm Kickoff presentation and reception at THS.

Discussion by Mrs. Morgan and Dr. Lucas concerning the necessity and continuance of education committee meetings.

10. Old Business – Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Snoke discussed Pennsylvania delaying submission of Phase II Comprehensive Plan school districts last year. The comprehensive plan is extremely similar to what was created last year for submission. PDE changed several reporting mechanisms and modalities, but the plan is the same as previously developed. Mr. Snoke discussed the depth of Trinity's programs and the benefit to our students. Mr. Snoke acknowledged the efforts of the professional staff and their willingness to go the extra mile. Additionally he thanked the Board of Directors for their support. Finally Mr. Snoke stated the administration was consistent and would follow the comprehensive plan. Systemic initiatives such as UbD, Learning Targets, Technological Integration, Differentiated Instruction, Daily Five, Collins' Writing across the Curriculum would be continued as we follow Dr. Lucas' directives to do what is best for all of the Trinity Students and the entire school community. Fantastic things are happening at Trinity as witnessed by THS' Keystone SPP rating and being first in the nation in AP Test results. Great Job!
11. Freight Farm Walk-Through – Mr. Snoke. Mr. Snoke conducted a walk-through of the small engine lab, farmbot, greenhouse and Freight Farm.
12. Adjournment – 6:35 PM

Chairperson: Mrs. Jennifer Morgan