

PT PTA Area Council

Meeting Minutes February 20, 2014

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance- 9:18 AM by Carol Aurin, VP

- Thank you for Hospitality provided by Bower Hill Elementary PTA

Reading and Approval of Minutes- Jan Trombitas, Secretary

- Minutes from January 23, 2014 Area Council Meeting-
- Minutes were approved and will stand as distributed

Treasurer's Report, Tracy Melograne, Treasurer

- Use appropriate check request for all reimbursement requests.

Superintendent's Report- Dr. Jeannine French

- Money received through subsidies did not increase too much. We were ranked 3rd wealthiest district in western PA and that impacted our funds from government. We run at about \$1100 per student. This is lean compared to state average of \$4000. SO we look to grants and other money. Competitive grant needs a score of 90 or above district performance profile (which is similar to school performance profile) to determine who is eligible to get which grants.
- District and Board members had a meeting to align goals, what is important, how we can move forward.
- There has been a change to wiretap laws- this impacts us because we will now have the right to have audio attached to bus video, we will need new policies and strict guidelines so it is not abused but used it safely.
- Educator disciplinary act- changes have broadened the scope of what we consider sexual misconduct. The new act covers the use of new technology and easier reporting. This will aid in keeping all students safe.
- K-12 Planning- All school principals working together- have a greater impact on all students grades k-12.

Administrative Reports

Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Patricia Kardambikis

- Curriculum writing-
 - Curriculum is a 6 year cycle. New math k-6 envisions program, SS (new global studies) and World Language prep has included looking at other schools with site visits to compare scope and sequence.
 - Research ongoing in Math, Literature and Writing. Envisions is being developed for K-6.
 - New Course Proposals at HS are History, Algebra IB, Algebra IIB, Trig, and Keystone Biology.
 - At MS adding Computer App 7, Vocal Music 7 and 8. Goal is staying but Consumer science may roll into it.
- PA Core Standards- Get students ready for College by increasing RIGOR- where each student is challenged to learn at high levels. It is not more work, but it is the way the kids will be thinking about the work and understanding concepts.
 - ELA/ Literacy (English, Language, Arts) - increasing non-fiction, and work will be grounded in evidence and utilize a more complex text.
 - Math Shift- Focus, Coherence, Thinking, Rigor (sample was given) showed it can be more fun and interactive.

- School Counselors-
Guidance plan is on file. Naviance training along with PIP (Postsecondary Instructional Planning) meetings are happening in the 11th grade. (College planning night is tonight at the HS for parents and students) *Discussion*- PIP meeting needs to happen earlier to increase usefulness. Pre-PIP would be useful sometime between 8th and 9th grades. Suggestion was made to utilize the last week of school to prepare students for future.
- School Nurses-
 - Safety in Youth Sports – Concussion packets are complete and should be given to parents. BrainSteps program has been an advocate for parents and helpful to district.
 - New School physician Dr. Aron Orlosky (concussion trained)
 - Mandated school health services: Medical Exams, Dental Exams, Growth, scoliosis, and vision are areas that forms may be required. Forms must be turned in to for district to get credit. If you don't have forms turned in properly, than the school nurse may have to complete the exam.

Assistant Superintendent for Performance- Dr. Jennifer Murphy

- Act 82 of 2012- Hand out given to all in attendance- Teachers WERE evaluated with Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory using very old style forms. This new act will give teachers a true, helpful evaluation. Observation 50%, Building Level Data 15%, Teacher Specific Data 15%, Elective Data 20%. PVAAS with Achievement shows the growth of all students. This allows us to capitalize on things that are working well, also change things that are not up to par. This year the teachers will have a 3year rolling data as part of their evaluation.
- Tested subject areas are reading and math in grades 5 & 8; writing in grades 4 & 8; Science, Algebra 1, Literature and Biology in HS with Keystone results. This is another lens used to see HOW our children are achieving.

Guest Speakers- Blair Stohr, Principal- Kelly Borra & Pam Harrison- McM Art Department
STEM AND STEAM in the Elementary School. What are the skills necessary? What is addressed today?
Answering the question, "What could we do at McM to impact and benefit all students?" STEAM
Qualities fit perfectly into art class. Art is the vehicle to tie into Math, science, reading, writing,
technology. And this department reaches all students in the school.

Five I's- Identify, Incubate, Ideas, Illuminate, and Implement

How to use the iPad in the classroom-

Problem solving, spatial concept, tutorial, research, Use with Artsonia, photography tool, document reader, drawing, painting.....just some ways we know we can use it today for all students.

Requesting a gift of 12 I-pads with protection plan, covers, and extra styluses at a cost of \$5269.10 in addition to one Airplay printer at a cost of \$191.26 for a total of \$5461.36

Communications Coordinator- Mrs. Shelly Belcher

- Much good news, National Merit Finalist, Perfect score on SAT, Dance a thon, Blue ribbon school.
- Our current communication company has been letting us down- so we are switching to something new. May not interface with PowerSchool, but will be more reliable.
- New Phone system has had a positive impact on the staff.
- Safety- several administrators plus one principal from each school will be attending a safety seminar downtown. Communications during incidents are being looked into, updating walkie-talkies. Safe Schools Targeted grant- to get more bus cameras, Raptor visual system where visitors will just swipe driver's license and nametag will print after a background check.
- TA blasts- non-school related blasts must pass guidelines so run by Shelly and/or principals first.

School Board Report, Lisa Anderson, Board Representative

- School board being forced to raise taxes. Nobody wants to raise taxes. Avella gets 7,000 per student, and we get 1,000 per student. Because of our wealth we get much less money from state, so we have to make it up through taxes. We cannot make 3, 000,000 dollars' worth of cuts and expenses are going up. Our MIL rate is the second lowest in all of Washington County. We are keeping spending down.

- B&G meeting- Due to cost saving we may not have kept up with building maintenance. A contract company has been brought in to identify ways that energy saving improvements can be implemented and money saved would be used to pay back cost of improvements. Frees up capital expenditures to use on non-energy projects.
- Policy Meeting- attendees can view all documents ahead of time
- Reg. Board Meeting- approved audit report, thank you for renewing bonds, no-longer requirements for online courses in HS, no longer required to have speech, senior project is also no longer a requirement.
- Authorized to outsource summer help for grounds update. Due to cancellations of school days we have extended times to give students standardized testing. Future dates given.

Floor opened up for questions-

- Substitute Bus drivers getting lost. Missing stops. Can we reset the flashing lights for school zones during 2 hour delay?

Unit Reports-No Unit Reports were given

New business-

- Thoughts on Elementary STEAM proposal
- Organizing Book Sale

Next meeting info- March 20, 2014- 9:15 am, District Administration

Adjournment- moved by Ria Kartsonas and Melanie Hutnick at 12:02 PM

Submitted: _____

Jan Trombitas, Secretary