

EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, April 20, 2018

8:30 a.m.

Agenda

Attendance: Dr. DeFabiis, Jason Bohm, Anna Shinn, Tom Wallace, Wayne Doran, Carol Hample, Stacey Brown, Sarah Pauch

1. Mathematics

- textbook adoption (update) - Grades K to 5
- Ready Math series (piloting)

a. A new Math Program will be piloted for the 2018-2019 school year, called Ready Math. This program was chosen by a committee of teachers who volunteered to review new Math Programs for our District. Teachers from each grade were also able to review the programs and make suggestions to the committee. The peer reports note Ready Math is user friendly, parent friendly, and has an impressive digital aspect to it. Every lesson has a video tutorial, an interactive tutorial as well as adaptive assessments which will give detailed lessons where improvement can be made to reach level specific goals and domains specific to a child's needs.

b. As of now, 11 volunteers are needed for the piloting so every school will have a pilot teacher for each grade level.

2. Curriculum

- LA - Grade 5
- LA Honors - Grade 6 (update)
- G&T - (update)

a. 5th Grade Teachers restructured the Language Arts Curriculum so all students will be taught and have knowledge of the information they are currently tested on, the schedule of lessons will meet with the PARCC timeline as well as the NJ State Standards. Currently some information is taught after the testing has been completed. All of this will lead to better use of time and flow of curriculum.

b. 6th Grade Honors Curriculum: the texts that need to be incorporated are currently being previewed for content appropriateness and ability levels. The curriculum for 7th Grade is also being reviewed to ensure proper flow within the Honors courses from grade level to grade level.

c. The current Gifted and Talented Teachers are meeting regularly to work on the Gifted and Talented Curriculum. They are also schedule for summer curriculum writing.

3. Honors LA - Grades 6, 7 and 8

- rubric finalization

a. The committee reviewed the final rubric which will be used in determining a student's eligibility into Honors Language Arts from grades 6-8.

b. With the adjustments made the Math and Language Arts rubric are more in line with each other as far as criteria to determine eligibility.

4. Summer Reading List

a. Summer Reading Lists were reviewed for Grade 6-8 and will be posted onto the District Website.

5. Summer Curriculum Writing
 - a. Grades 6-8 Advanced and Honors Math Curriculum will be updated during the summer

6. Stem through the lens of aviation
 - N85 Aerospace Club at Alexandria Field Airport
 - a. This program is more appropriate for the 6th Grade:

Dr. DeFabiis attended a meeting about STEM through Aviation and presented a summary as well as a future view on how the program could be incorporated into the District. The program is given at Alexandria Field Airport in Pittstown. The owner Linda Castner has received grants to help develop a program where students develop their STEM abilities through the many aspects of aviation, including a flight simulator. Some suggestions and program information that were discussed through Dr. DeFabiis' visit are:

Offered at the airport currently:

- Living Learning Labs, which are at the airport and can be used in many aspects of teaching or trips (currently offered at the airport)
- Aerospace club which would meet once a month and take place at the Alexandria Airport (current at the airport with potential to be offered through the school)
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Future/Potential look at this program:

- Aerospace club as an enrichment program (potential)
- Summer Teachers' Academy (potential)
- This program could be an extension for Gifted and Talented (potential)

b. All of the above is to be reviewed and thoroughly looked into and reported on in the future.

7. Summer Enrichment Program
 - offerings
 - sign-ups
 - a. The committee reviewed the courses and current number of students registered.
8. Summer Sports Program
 - offerings
 - sign-ups
 - a. The committee reviewed the courses and current number of students registered.
9. Additional items