

## **EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday, June 5, 2018**

**8:30 a.m.**

### **Agenda**

Attendance: Dr. DeFabiis, Anna Shinn, Tom Wallace, Wayne Doran, Carol Hample, Sherry Krial, Sarah Pauch, Stacey Brown, Anthony Tumolo

#### **1. Curriculum**

- Math Curriculum (update): Math K-5 Curriculum will be fine-tuned this summer to update the standards and goals. The goals will be updated by domain and not by material chapters to make it more universal for future years and programs.  
The Advanced Math 4th and 5th grade curriculum will be updated to better align the standards and domains to the actual grade level standards. This will ensure the grade appropriate skills are being taught even if the advanced groups are learning the next grade level materials.  
The 6-8 Grade Curriculum will need minor adjustments to align with the grade appropriate standards and content.
- Coding will be updated to include 8th Grade. This is due to growth since the last revisions.
- Financial Literacy will also be updated to include new material and content pertinent to the current lessons. This change is due to growth of the curriculum since its last update.
- LA Honors – Grade 6 (update) This curriculum is updated and recommended for approval by the board.
- LA – Grade 7: This curriculum was fine-tuned with updated mentor texts. Recommended for approval.
- G&T – (update): The committee reviewed a Scope and Sequence of skills that are to be taught within the new Gifted and Talented Curriculum.
- Music – Grades K to 8: Standards remained the same. Scope and Sequence was added for K-8 and 6-8 was updated to include Choral Music in the Scope and Sequence. Approval recommended.
- Visual Arts – Grades K to 8: Standards remained the same and Scope and Sequence was updated. Approval recommended.
- Phonics - pilot: 2 programs are being piloted in 2 rooms per grade level for Phonics. K-1 will be using Teacher's College (Lucy Caulkins). 2nd Grade will be using Fontas and Pinnell (still to be determined if K-1 will be using this officially) and over the next 2 years this program will be integrated into grades 3 and 4. 5th grade will be using Vocabulary Exploration.
- New Pilot: Company will score running records instead of the teachers. This will save a lot of time and essentially create 4 more weeks of teachable time per year. The child will be voice recorded on the Chromebooks and the recordings will be sent to the company to be scored by an impartial person and the results will be sent back to the district and the teachers. The child will also answer multiple choice questions for comprehension (to be determined on the use of multiple choice). This is being piloted to try to see if there is a true gap in the 5th end of year and 6th beginning of the year. The potential advantages to this is the scores will give an accurate vision of what is happening and the scores are objective. This would be used in grades 2-6.

## 2. Math Testing Results

- On-grade level Math students: Grades 4-8 are using Front Row, an adaptive assessment tool. It is being utilized as intended by the students and the teachers are utilizing the data produced by the program for each student.

The new Math program being piloted, Ready Math, comes with iReady, which is a similar assessment tool, but is included in the purchase price of the program.

Teachers have been reviewing the standards and curriculum mapping to identify the areas of need, build a base for the students' knowledge, and then move them forward.

Ready Math would be the best program with the best base for Grade Level students.

4th Grade has reviewed the gap between the end of the year assessments and the PARCC results and have narrowed down some areas where improvement can be made to bridge that gap: vocabulary and layout of problems. They are working to incorporate those changes for this year's end of the year assessment.

## 3. New Middle School Science Textbook:

- Discovery Education will become the new program that will be used in grades 6-8 Science. This is a "Science Techbook" because the book is digital and has many interactive features. This will update continuously, will blend the text and media which is imbedded into the program, it is interactive with the child and the teacher will have capabilities to view the child's notes, the text can be adapted up 1-2 grades to help with reading abilities, it also comes with text to speech in English and Spanish.

The new curriculum will keep the iScience book and information in it and just add the Discovery Ed information. The iScience books will remain as a tangible resource for the students and teachers.

With Discovery Ed. all 3 domains in the science program are already included in the one program and they all align to the Next Generation Science Standards.

## 4. Stem through the lens of aviation

- N85 Aerospace Club at Alexandria Field Airport: RMS G&T went on a trip to visit the Alexandria Aerospace Labs and were extremely excited with their experience. With that the new Aerospace Club will begin in September.

There are already chaperones for the club.

There is already a good response from parents expressing interest in the club.

The question is about how the Chaperones will be paid and for now it will be via chaperone hourly pay. This is due to the adults being chaperones and not advisors.

## 5. Summer Enrichment Program

- offerings: There were 32 offerings and there will be 18 running courses up from 13 last year
- sign-ups: There are currently 96 students enrolled and that is up from 78 last year

## 6. Summer Sports Program

- offerings: There were 8 programs offered and 3-5 will be running
- sign-ups: 28 enrolled this year and last year was 30

7. Choice School: This was continued from the May 21, 2019 Board Meeting.
- o The committee reviewed Choice School in some depth and some pros and cons came out of this discussion.
  - o It was discovered that the home school will not be paying tuition to our district and the only funds that would contribute to the student entering would be state aid, which is nominal. For example: Current cost per general education pupil is approx. \$16,000 and the State Aid would be approx. \$1,000.
  - o While the student would be “absorbed” into our district and budget and fill empty seats that could be one less seat for a new move in student. This brought up where does the board draw the line on how many students to allow into the district by school choice since this could affect our class sizes in the future and in some cases immediately.
  - o For the first year Readington would receive State Aid and Choice Aid combined in funds and the following year just State Aid.
  - o Transportation would be a logistic and cost issue for the home district. Readington is not responsible.
  - o There could be a loss of tuition due to school choice.
  - o Will this program be viable in the next few years?
  - o At this time the Committee does not approve of this move but we will encourage the whole board to discuss under Old Business at the June 12th meeting.

8. Additional items

- SEL UPDATE: Mr. Tumolo came in to update the committee on the kick start of a new SEL program at RMS. Today, June 5, 2018 RMS is starting its School Buddy Meetings. This is a new take on their grade level meetings. 8th grade students will lead small group discussions on various topics, this month is “ALL KINDS OF KIND” which links in to literacy.
- This will run approximately 20 min. It will include 3 8th graders, 3 7th graders and 3 6th graders and a staff facilitator.
- 5-7 minutes of Intro: ground rules and getting to know you games.
- 10 min of Thematic Activity.
- 3-5 min of Closing/Question and Answer
- There maybe a presentation at our next board meeting to discuss how this new program did on its first day.