



EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

November 22, 2024

Virtual Meeting - 8:30 A.M.

Committee Members: Beth Fiore, Chair

Paulo Lopes, Randall Peach (absent), Carolyn Podgorski, Jennifer Wolf (attended as alternate)

Administrative Staff: Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent of Schools

Staci Beegle, Director of Pupil Services

Jason Bohm, SBA/Board Secretary

Dr. Stacey Brown, Humanities Supervisor

Sherry Krial, PD/Tech Supervisor

Sarah Pauch, Math, Science, Tech Supervisor

Anthony Tumolo, SEL Supervisor

Jim Belske, Technology Coordinator

Agenda

1. Board Goals

- a. Academic Achievement - The Board is dedicated to creating and implementing systems and frameworks that prioritize academic success, ensuring it remains a central focus in decision making. Suggested board action steps include:
 - i. Continue of periodic review of assessment data, comparison data from other districts
 - ii. Clubs that support positive learning environment
 - iii. Mental Health supports for students and staff
- b. Safety - To continue to upgrade and refine safety and security measures to ensure student and staff safety. Suggested board action steps include:
 - i. Student safety education- see something, say something
 - ii. Surveillance and monitoring online behavior
 - iii. HIB - how can the Board support initiatives in any way

2. Quarterly Tech Update - Mr. Belske gave an update on technology projects around the district, including: sound systems, microphone and mixer for student productions at RMS, Battery backup system enhancements for temporary use during power outages, Wireless access points installed by facilities team at RMS, Ipads for Kindergarteners were refreshed, Reallocate used ipads for other uses within district, Chromebook refreshes for 6th graders and those chromebooks then reallocated to other uses in District, Staff devices are being refreshed also, Security updates to cameras and door access devices, Phone system and intercoms are now coordinated to work together. Other projects that the tech department is working on include: implementing SecurelyPass at RMS, placing spare chromebooks and chargers in each RMS classroom, to keep kids from going to the library to sign a chromebook out. Network switch upgrades are upcoming. Website needs to move again to the new platform, Finals site. Software Security Assessment is another upcoming project for the Technology Department.

3. NJSLA Comparisons and Follow-up

- a. District/DFG Comparison - As requested by the Ed/Tech Committee, Ms. Pauch and Dr. Brown shared NJSLA data that they gathered from surrounding school districts' websites and those designated in the same district factor group from previous years. Their analysis showed that Readington district is competitive among similarly sized schools. Articulation at HCRHS informs us that our students are prepared and doing well at the high school level. Science articulation meeting with Central hasn't happened yet, but there is no indication that our students are not prepared going into Central.
- b. Pre- and Post- COVID Comparison - Dr. Hart shared data of district NJSLA scores pre- and post- COVID compared to State data. In English Language Arts, our district has recovered in every grade but Grades 7-8, there is still work to do there, but remember we are comparable to surrounding districts in these numbers. When comparing us to the State, the State has not recovered in any grade in E.L.A. For Math, our recovery has been slower, but there are several cohorts that have returned to pre-COVID levels: Grades 4 and Algebra I, the other grades are trending in the right direction. Looking at State recovery, only Algebra II students are back to pre-COVID testing level.

4. Dyslexia Handbook and Updated Protocols - Mrs. Beegle discussed the Dyslexia handbook which has been updated by the State. New testing and secondary screeners are being reviewed by the district. General Education and Intervention will be utilizing this new handbook; it will be pushed out to staff through PD and at the March In-service.

5. Preschool Plan - Annual Update - Dr. Hart reported that there are no changes for the upcoming school year for Preschool. There will remain 210 seats, same staffing positions, and locations. Creative Curriculum is now used in all preschools.

6. Controversial Library Books - The Committee discussed updating the library cataloguing software so it could potentially be easier for a family to opt out of "controversial" library books or books with sensitive topics. The district currently notifies parents at the beginning of the school year through a letter appearing in the Genesis Blasts that they can opt out of certain titles in the book room and discusses that there are titles in the library parents may want to review. When asked, Dr. Brown stated that only a handful of parents opt out of library materials.

Agenda items: Typical agenda items

Next Meeting: Jan 16 @ 8:30 am

Summaries of Curriculum Revisions