



EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

November 28, 2023

Virtual Meeting - 8:30 A.M.

Committee Members: Beth Fiore, Chair

Randall Peach, Carolyn Podgorski, Justina Ryan

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

Guest: Tanya Cavallo (New Preschool Teacher, item #1)

Agenda

1. Preschool Creative Curriculum Overview - The committee saw a presentation by new Preschool Teacher, Tanya Cavallo, about Creative Curriculum, one of the two curriculums the preschool program will utilize in January. A major part of the curriculum is setting up the room by centers (ex. art center, block center, science center, etc), incorporating inclusive practices which teaches independence, learning through play/hands on activities, partnerships with families to showcase things like careers that relate to the curriculum, and the last element is data/assessment/planning with the Coach. Our preschool program will be evaluated annually on the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS). The district will be providing professional development on Creative Curriculum as well as training on the ECERS gold assessment to preschool teaching staff. Stanton Learning Center, Berry Patch, and Readington Schools will be using Creative Curriculum. Whitehouse Preparatory Academy is using another approved curriculum called Tools of the Mind, however the goal is to transition over to Creative Curriculum at a later date.
2. Quarterly Tech Update - Mr. Belske gave an update on technology upgrades. Updates were made to the phone system and security cameras with guidance from school safety officers. The district received a grant for cyber security protections. As part of capital maintenance projects, audio updates were made to HBS for the Cafeteria/Gym sound systems.
3. NJSLA Scores - As a followup to the November Board Meeting, Ms. Pauch and Dr. Brown researched the surrounding districts' NJSLA scores to see how our district scores compare to similar, surrounding school districts. Based on the scores they found publicly available on those districts' websites, they found that our district is in alignment with testing score trends of schools of a similar size.

4. Intervention and Tutoring Programs by the Numbers - Ms. Pauch and Dr. Brown reported out the participation rates of the intervention/tutoring programs that are offered to students. Administrators are continuing to look for ways to boost participation.
 - a. After school tutoring - RMS has had minimal participation perhaps due to transportation issues.
 - b. After school Fall and Spring YMCA Program - very good participation Grades 1-5. K will begin in Spring.
 - c. Summer tutoring - about a 50% participation rate for those who qualify
 - d. Littera LA online tutoring- Program will start in January for students who meet criteria. Participation rate has historically been good.
 - e. Intervention during school day - There are 3 tiers of intervention (tier 1 classroom teacher provides support, tier 2 additional aide/teacher in class for extra support, tier 3 in class and pull out services) These are Optional Programs.
 - i. Math: good participation at TBS/WHS/HBS. RMS has low participation, especially for pull out intervention. Push in is a new initiative and is better received than pull out, however pull out is ideal for certain students who need tier 3.
 - ii. Language Arts: 25% have declined in school services push in and pull out.
 - f. The district is looking at options to increase participation in intervention at RMS because we believe this is impacting our NJSLA scores.

5. High Impact Tutoring Grant - not awarded

6. TABLED UNTIL NEXT MEETING -

Board Goals:

Goal 2. *Improve the use of data to monitor progress and drive decision-making.*

Goal 4. *Create the supports and structures for a sharp, clear focus on academic achievement (i.e., remove barriers that take focus away from education) while continuing the integration of Social Emotional Learning across the curriculum and providing equitable access to mental health supports as needed for our students and staff.*

Agenda items: Additional YMCA Club, QSAC Submission, other typical agenda items (field trips, student teaching placement)

Next Meeting: Jan 17th 8:30 am