



EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 20, 2024

Virtual Meeting - 8:30 A.M.

Committee Members: Beth Fiore, Chair

Paulo Lopes, Randall Peach, Carolyn Podgorski

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 (abs.)

Sarah Pauch, Math, Science, Tech Supervisor

Anthony Tumolo, SEL Supervisor

Jim Belske, Technology Coordinator (abs.)

Agenda

1. Literacy Program Overview - Dr. Brown gave an overview of the district's Literacy Program. K-2 will be using the new Units of Study for Reading. We currently use Units of Study for Writing and Phonics, which all align with Science of Reading research. Prior to choosing Units of Study, Dr. Brown researched 3 or 4 different programs. The program had to be within the 110 minutes allotted for ELA. Some programs required far more time for literacy than what the district has available. Many programs lacked a writing program. The previous version of Units of Study did not include a phonics component, however our district had been incorporating a phonics program for many years. A pilot was conducted this school year, with teachers who volunteered to try it out. Surveys were given to pilot teachers, progress was tracked, and the overall response was favorable. Teachers reported that there is more time for small group instruction with this new program and that the program has great tracking assessments. In terms of achievement data, Dr. Brown presented diagnostic data comparing our current program (results from K in June 2023) with the new Units of Study (results from K in Jan 2024 Pilot), and the students in the pilot group outperformed their predecessors by significant percentage points. For example, in the Kindergarten phonics measurement, the national average in 2023 was 48% meeting/exceeding goals, the Readington K students in 2023 were well above national and state averages with 69% meeting/exceeding goals, and the pilot group from Jan of this year were already at 75% meeting/exceeding goals at halfway through the year. In overall State averages, Readington is in the top 10% of statewide scores for ELA.
2. Special Education Literacy Programs
 - a. Mrs. Beegle gave a report on the district's Resource Rooms, self-contained special education programs, and the tiered literacy program. The district utilizes both Foundations and Wilson Just Words for students in Tiers 1 and 2, as designated in a student's IEP. For students needing a highly intensive literacy program, the district offers Wilson starting in Grade 4. The district has 3 teachers who are Level 1 Wilson trained. Next year, two Level 1 teachers will complete training for Level 2 Wilson certification.

- b. Screening tools: Dr. Brown and Mrs. Beegle discussed the screening tools used to identify which students need additional support. iReady Diagnostic in Grades K-3 flags students who may need further assessment for dyslexia or have needs for additional assessment or support. Further assessment is then done on those students. Special services are offered if a student is not improving with help from a classroom teacher. Intervention and/or special services are offered for students depending on their need.
3. Summer Teacher Academy - Dr. Hart presented the Summer Teacher Academy Course Catalog. Teachers are invited from surrounding districts to attend if there are spots available after Readington teachers have a chance to register.
4. Sexual Education/Health Report - Ms. Pauch presented a report on the number of students who were opted-out of Sexual Health Education. The opt-outs were evenly spread throughout the grade levels, and did not change significantly from previous years. This year, the percentage of opt-outs was 4.6% or about 40 students. Instruction will be concluded by the end of May.

Agenda items: student teachers, field trips, summer ESY field trips, curriculum writing

Next Meeting: August 14th at 8:30am

Timeline of Curriculum Revisions

Curriculum writing begins over the summer. ELA and Math will be prioritized for completion and likely be included on the August BOE agenda. This is done so instruction can begin at the start of the school year. The other subject areas which did not have changes in Learning Standards will be included in August if prepared in time or more likely at the September BOE meeting.