



# EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

June 12, 2025

Virtual Meeting - 8:30 A.M.

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Committee Members: Beth Fiore, Chair

Ellen DePinto, Paulo Lopes, David Rizza (alt.)

Administrative Staff: Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent of Schools

Staci Beegle, Director of Pupil Services

Jason Bohm, SBA/Board Secretary (absent)

Dr. Stacey Brown, Humanities Supervisor

Sherry Krial, PD/Tech Supervisor

Sarah Pauch, Math, Science, Tech Supervisor

Anthony Tumolo, SEL Supervisor

Jim Belske, Technology Coordinator

Guests: Jodi Rehrig and Nicole Maraventano, Instructional Coaches (item #1)

## Agenda

1. Teacher-to-Teacher Mentor and New Teacher Orientation Program - Instructional Coaches Mrs. Rehrig and Mrs. Maraventano proposed a new teacher orientation program for the district. Through their inquiry project at TCNJ, the coaches created a potential onboarding program to help with teacher retention. They proposed a combination of virtual and in person meetings and activities, district bus tours, coaching in content areas, among other ideas, with sessions taking place after school and for the first 4 years of a new hire. There would also be mentor training for mentors who are supporting new hires. This proposal will move over to the Finance Committee to discuss further.
2. Chronic Absenteeism Data - Mr. Tumolo has been tracking chronic absenteeism in the Multilingual Learner population particularly at one specific school. According to the Language Instruction Education Program (LIEP) during the 2023-2024 school year, the rate of chronic absenteeism has doubled from 8.2% to 16.2% from the previous year and is now higher than the state's recommended chronic absentee rate of 16%. Action steps have been taken to encourage attendance including: communicating to parents about the importance of attendance, sending letters home in their home language, and creating outreach programs such as ML Parent Night. Mr. Tumolo will continue to monitor the situation and keep the committee informed.
3. Library Books and Mackin Software- The district will be transitioning over the summer from Destiny to Mackin for all of our library needs. Dr. Brown presented on the Mackin software program and the new tracking and search features. The district selected Mackin because 1) it was cheaper than Destiny and 2) it has better tracking options for parents to view which items have been checked out. Additionally, RMS parents can now sort by interest or reading level, for example grades 9-12, if they didn't want their child accessing those materials. Dr. Brown reiterated that parents should contact their child's ELA teacher and the school librarian with family preferences.

Several board members had concerns about sensitive books that could potentially be in classrooms and not part of the new library software. It was suggested that the district create an inventory of classroom books. This would help with communication between teachers and parents on how to approach a book that may be above a student's reading level. One board member asked what an inventory like that would cost the district to implement and reminded the others that according to our Resource Materials policy, teachers, principals, and administrators select the books to be included in classroom libraries, and it is not under the purview of the board of education. Dr. Hart summarized the discussion of what he understood to be the requests of the board and took it as an action item to research what effort level and costs to the district would be to implement classroom inventories. Dr. Hart will review this idea and several other options with administration and come back to the board with his recommendation.

- a. Summer Reading Requirements - Dr. Brown shared the summer reading lists for Grades 6-8 that have been newly updated this year with titles that are available for students to borrow over the summer from the book room.
4. Special Education Monitoring Report - Ms. Beegle presented the Special Education Monitoring Results 2024, which is a district-wide audit by the State performed every 6 years. The district had several findings of non compliance with required action steps. The findings were minor in nature and corrective action plans include training for the child study team in preparing IEPs and developing an oversight mechanism to maintain compliance.
5. Summer Teacher Academy Catalog - Mrs. Krial shared the Summer Teacher Academy directory. There are 22 courses that teachers can choose from and attendees are paid for participating during the summer. In the Spring and Fall Teacher Academy attendees are compensated with flex time.
6. Sex Ed Opt Out Comparisons - Ms. Pauch updated the committee on the number of students who were opted out of Sex Education this year compared to last. There was no significant change from last year. About 4% of students were opted out, about 43 out of 906 students. Ms. Pauch has been monitoring this number since the new Health and P.E. Standards were implemented.
7. IT Department Shared Services - tabled until next meeting due to time
8. Happy Retirement Sherry and Staci - Thanks for your contributions to Ed/Tech!

Agenda items:

Next Meeting: Aug 11 at 8:30am

### **Summaries of Curriculum Revisions**

N/A