



EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 11, 2021

8:30 a.m. - Virtual Meeting

Committee Members: Carol Hample, Chair

Carolyn Podgorski (absent), Beth Fiore (alt.), Anthony Emmons, Thomas Wallace

Administrative Staff: Dr. Jonathan Hart, Superintendent of Schools

Staci Beegle, Director of Pupil Services

Jason Bohm, SBA/Board Secretary

Dr. Stacey Brown, Humanities Supervisor

Sarah Pauch, Math, Science, Tech Supervisor

Sherry Krial, PD/Tech Supervisor

Minutes

1. Mid-Year Data Reports

- a. Some initial student data was not consistent with expectations due to at-home testing. There may be score reversals if conditions of the second administration was different than the first
- b. Piloting iReady reading software in Grade 2; very successful in identifying gaps and strengths. Assessments are three times a year so the needs are identified in a timely manner
- c. Running records showed loss from last school year to September; but this school year shows significant improvement (60% at or above grade level) across all grades
- d. We are about 10% below our normal grade level due to pandemic in LA and Math, yet our students are outperforming the normal National level
- e. Math 11% increase from Fall to Winter of students on grade level, and decrease of students that were below grade level
- f. Math domains that were identified as areas for improvement will be addressed with PD training by grade level
- g. Additional programs and supports in Math
 - i. Pacing guides adjusted where additional instruction is needed
 - ii. Teacher training on hybrid work model
 - iii. RMS students using iReady twice weekly and additional afternoon support once weekly
 - iv. Implementation of new intervention schedule in K-5, including push-in for Kindergarten
- h. Extra support program that will run September through December next year for students identified as having a need

2. New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA) Update

- a. No update on waiver from Federal Government
- b. Potential options include a revised test, provide our current assessments to the state, or the NJSLA

3. Research: "Environmental Schools: Transforming K-12 Education Through Sustainable Practices" By Dr. Linda Plevyak

- a. Readington has been asked to contribute to a book on our sustainability practices and becoming a Green Ribbon district.
4. G&T Criteria Recommendations
 - a. iReady will be used in place of NWEA assessments
 - b. Universally screen in Grades 3 and again in Grade 5.
 - i. Saves instructional time by not testing every year
 - ii. Prevents children from “learning” the test by taking it year after year
 - iii. Identifies any student who might not have otherwise tested for the program
 - c. Project Rubric will be used this year in place of NJSLA for grades 4-7 (for example, develop a board game, monologue, or podcast)
 - d. Due to current processes successfully identifying G&T students, recommended to remove screening of current students
 5. World Language Textbooks
 - a. Standards are changing as of September
 - i. Spanish books are 17 years old; standards need to reach Novice High
 - ii. French books are 13 years old, standards need to reach Novice Mid
 6. Spring Sports
 - a. Extending deadline to sign up (lacrosse in particular has low enrollment)
 - b. 4/12 Spring Sports will start
 7. March 22 Virtual PD Day
 - a. Required PD for LA and Math
 - b. Optional workshops are based on survey from January
 8. ESSER II Funding for Learning Acceleration, Mental Health, Equity and Tutoring/Intervention Services
 - a. School funding - \$164K
 - b. Learning acceleration - \$25K
 - c. Mental health - \$45K
 - i. Money can be used through Sept 2023 and will be used towards mental health for staff, summer intervention, after-school tutoring for fall, SEL, Equity, and Inquisitive Learning
 9. Texts
 - a. 6th grade
 - i. *When You Reach Me* by Rebecca Stead (fiction)
 - ii. *Bob* by Wendy Mass and Rebecca Stead (fiction)
 - iii. *A Corner of the Universe* by Ann M. Martin (fiction)
 - b. 7th grade
 - i. *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander (fiction)
 - ii. *Heat* by Mike Lupica (fiction)
 - iii. *The Genius of the Benin Kingdom* by Sonya Newland (nonfiction/SS)
 - c. 8th grade
 - i. *Liberty or death: the surprising story of runaway slaves who sided with the British during the American Revolution* by Margaret Blair (nonfiction/SS)
 - ii. *Now or Never!: 54th Massachusetts Infantry's War to End Slavery* by Ray Shepard (classroom library)
 10. Agenda Items: texts, research study, other standard Ed/Tech agenda items, donations, amended ESY dates resolution (error)

11. Next Meeting: Thursday 4/22 at 8:30am