

**Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment  
Board of Education Curriculum Committee Meeting  
Friday, April 22, 2016**

Members Present: Mr. Larry Greenstein, Ms. Nora Johnson, Ms. Christina Nadolne, Dr. Wafa Westervelt

Guests: Dr. Kathleen Mooney, Ms. Elizabeth Weisburd, Mr. Ryan Meloni, Mrs. Karen Sloan

Community Members: George Borda, John Neil, Cindy Moroney, Lynn Steinberg, Annie Thornton, Adrienne Saur, Penelope Madry

Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Curriculum Committee Chairperson Larry Greenstein. The minutes from the March 31, 2016, minutes were approved and will be posted.

Dr. Westervelt welcomed Mr. Ryan Meloni, Director of Technology, to present on the instructional technology programs implemented in the Pre-K -12 classrooms.

Presentation

Mr. Ryan Meloni opened the presentation to speak about the technology tools that are being used to enhance curriculum instruction. He noted that the district is currently in year three of a seven-year plan for technology.

Technology Curriculum

- Five areas of focus:
  - Research
  - STEM/STEAM
  - Assessments
  - Programs
  - Professional Development

Research

- Has been a big focus this year for the technology department and the district in all content areas. Library research is a large piece of this, and their programs need to be shared more with the community.
- Google classroom: Supports home-to-school connection; collaborative research
- Blogging-students blog on their thoughts to share with other students
- Digital Learning Center—"hands on" curriculum; doing, creating, researching

STEM/STEAM

- Lego robots; video editing, music engineering, hour of code, 3D printers (two in each building); 3D doodler pens, Kodable, OSMO, document cameras, etc. Art teachers use document cameras frequently and are very excited about the technology.

Assessments

- NWEA—monitors student growth
- Skills Pointer
- Skills Checklist
- Castle Learning

## Programs

- Expanding support from Technology Department personnel
- “Apps”
- Google Chrome Books—approximately 1,500 have been purchased districtwide
- iPad trainings
- “BYOD” (bring your own device)
- Math in Focus
- Smart notebooks
- Assistive Technology (special education students)
- iRead (ENL students)
  - RAZ Kids
  - Science 360
  - Reading A to Z
  - Discovery Education
  - Smartmusic
- TV/Video production studio

All of these devices joining the network require constant upgrades and maintenance on the infrastructure. Trying to keep a balance and remain flexible with limited resources.

## Professional Development

Expose teachers to what is out there in technology to enhance instruction. Some teachers are being certified in Google teaching. Technology does not take place of a teacher.

Partnership with Teacher Center—blended courses, both on and off line. Technology professional development is offered numerous times a year for teachers and staff.

## School year 2016-2017

Continued focus on professional development. Create a sequence for STEM for teachers (i.e. have STEM stations similar to play as the students would be doing). Bring in experts from outside the district. Energize everyone and take it back to the classroom. Next huge technology push is in the future.

Dr. Mooney thanked Mr. Meloni for his presentation and is very impressed with all that is being done in technology.

## Comments/Concerns/Questions

- Will there be more ASPEN training for teachers?
- WIFI being a detriment to health?
- Life of Chromebooks---will they need to be replaced?
- Would like public to see the growth of technology in the district.
- Foreign Language—any “apps” available?
- SHS student getting involved in helping with the 3D printer in the elementary school library.
- Knowledge acquisition of what teachers know about technology is a challenge. Trying to define a practice. Different technology expertise among teachers.
- Inequality of iPads amongst elementary schools

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Next meeting: May 20, 2016