

**CENTRAL BUCKS SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**School Board Curriculum Committee**  
**May 10, 2017**  
**Board Room – 16 Welden Drive**  
**7:00 p.m.**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sharon Collopy, Chair  
John Gamble, Member

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS AND ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Glen Schloeffel            Mr. John Kopicki  
Karen Smith                Dr. David Bolton  
Beth Darcy                  Dr. Scott Davidheiser

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Dennis Weldon  
Jerel Wohl

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The meeting minutes from April 5, 2017 meeting were reviewed and approved without changes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was one member of the public that spoke about the importance of social and emotional learning. He expressed that he was happy to see that the new middle school schedule proposal included an Advisory period to help address the social and emotional needs of our students and encourage the district to start addressing these issues in the early grades as well.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

**Middle School Schedule Proposal 2017-2018**—Dr. Scott Davidheiser, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education, presented an in-depth proposal to change the middle school schedule beginning in the 2017-2018 school year. Dr. Davidheiser provided background information on the development of a public survey that was sent out in October and the explained the different public focus groups along with focus group meetings with teachers and students. The middle school schedule committee was formed with members of the public, teachers, students, supervisors and administrators. Dr. Davidheiser went over the details of each of the middle school schedule committee’s meetings and explained the process and timeline of how the proposal was developed.

Dr. Davidheiser’s full presentation can be found here <http://www.cbsd.org/Page/36778>

Some of the details are as follows:

- The class length would change from a 56-minute class to a 50-minute class
- A 19-minute Advisory period would be added
- Two new courses for 7<sup>th</sup> grade would be added—Innovation and Creativity (InC) and Integrated Technology. 8<sup>th</sup> grade would also include the new Integrated Technology course.
- Resource period would be every other day (A/B Day) and would be at different times of the day depending on the grade level
- Team Planning would now be during the school day for teachers
- Two additional specials periods would be added
- 9<sup>th</sup> grade sports would be added. This would include Boys/Girls Soccer, Boys/Girls Basketball, Baseball and Softball
- EDRs would be added to cover after school activities and clubs

Dr. Davidheiser explained the two new course offerings that are being proposed—Integrated Technology and Innovation and Creativity. If the schedule change is approved these new courses would be brought to the Curriculum Committee for approval but Dr. Davidheiser gave a description of each course. The Innovation and Creativity (InC) course would be a hands-on course that includes problem-based activities that will create exposure for the students to different career pathways and would follow the PA Academic Standards for Career and Work. The Integrated Technology course would be a project-based course that will enhance the students' technology skills and digital citizenship using the Microsoft platform and would follow the Central Bucks Technology Standards.

Board members asked clarifying questions about specials and the option to elect a course. Dr. Davidheiser explained that the committee felt at the middle level exposure is more valuable than choice.

Mr. Schloeffel asked about the Innovation and Creativity course and questioned the career standards. Dr. Davidheiser explained that the hope is to expose students to different careers options and work with community experts. Mrs. Smith asked if the pathways could be model after the MBIT Career Pathways. Board members also asked who would teach this course. Dr. Davidheiser explain that a teacher with a secondary or middle level certification will be teaching this InC course.

Mrs. Darcy asked who will be writing the curriculum for these two new classes. Dr. Davidheiser explained that teachers would need to be either BCIT or Tech Ed certified to teach the Integrated Technology course. Those that will be teaching either of the two new courses would be some of the teachers writing the course work along with curriculum supervisors, staff development and Ms. Lindsay Smith, K-12 Technology Supervisor. Mrs. Darcy suggested that the librarians be included as well.

Questions were asked about the Integrated Technology course and can this be offered in 9<sup>th</sup> grade? Also questioned was what effect will this course have on students matriculating into the high schools? Dr. Davidheiser explained that this course could be consider for 9<sup>th</sup> grade as an elective. Mr. Kopicki reminded the board that the this will have an effect on high school but the focus right now in on middle school and the some of the next steps would be to look at the courses offered at high school.

Mrs. Collopy asked who teaches resource. Dr. Davidheiser explained that this is up to the buildings to schedule who will be teaching resource, but that it will be core team teachers.

Questions were asked about 9<sup>th</sup> grades sports and the impact the proposed schedule will have on our student athletes missing too much of special classes and having to leave early for sports. Dr. Davidheiser explained that he has been working with our Athletic Directors to ensure that those students playing at the ninth-grade level would not be leaving early however students playing at the high school level would still need to leave early because of the limited number of buses and the complexity of the high school sport schedules.

Mrs. Darcy asked why in the proposed schedule are non-music students not exposed to music in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Dr. Davidheiser explained that students that want to be in music will have had already chosen to be in music. 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will have exploratory music as one of their specials.

Mrs. Darcy also asked about the impact of the proposed schedule on special ed students. Dr. Davidheiser explained that special ed student would not be excluded in the proposed schedule and that the recommendation is always to have special ed student in the main-stream classes as much as possible.

Mr. Gamble asked if there would be enough time to write all the necessary curriculum for the two new courses. Dr. Davidheiser expressed that he is highly confident that this can be done and that curriculum

writing is quite often completed over the summer months, so this would not be anything new for our teachers or supervisors.

Mrs. Darcy attended many of the middle school meetings and want to thank Dr. Davidheiser for his work and the work of the committee. Mrs. Darcy stated that the process was impressive, through and as a non-educator you provided so much information that I now feel more aware of middle school. Addressing the social emotional needs of our students was at the forefront of the middle school schedule committee. Mrs. Darcy has some questions and concerns about cost, timing and sports. Stating that the 15 proposed teachers is not in the budget, curriculum would need to be approved by the board and would like to look into the ninth-graders leaving at the end of the day.

Mr. Bill Senavaitis, CBEA Union President, asked a clarifying question about the budget stating that the 15 teachers were on the last budget presentation. Mrs. Darcy clarified that the budget is a preliminary budget and not an approved budget.

Mrs. Smith thanked Dr. Davidheiser and the committee expressing that she was very impressed with the middle school committee meetings and felt that the process was very through and most importantly it was student focused.

Mrs. Collopy stated that she is not comfortable sending this proposal to the full board without all Curriculum Committee members having the chance to review the documents. Mrs. Darcy is recommending having another committee meeting to include the committee members that were not present at this evening's meeting.

Another meeting will be added to allow discussion and questions to be asked. Information on the proposal and the presentation can be found at <http://www.cbsd.org/Page/36778>

**Technology Vision 2017—Beyond—Mr. Jason Jaffe,**

Due to the length of the meeting, this item will be moved to another date.

Adjournment—meeting adjourn at 9:30 PM

Next Meeting — May 18, 2017, 6:45 PM