

CENTRAL BUCKS SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Board Curriculum Committee
May 18, 2017
Board Room – 16 Welden Drive
6:45 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sharon Collopy, Chair
John Gamble, Member
Dennis Weldon, Member
Jerel Wohl, Member

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS AND ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Beth Darcy
Meg Evans
Paul Faulkner
Karen Smith
Mr. John Kopicki
Dr. David Bolton
Dr. Scott Davidheiser

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

None

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The meeting minutes from the May 10, 2017 meeting were reviewed and approved with a request to change a minimal typo.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Middle School Schedule Proposal 2017-2018—Dr. Scott Davidheiser, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education, was asked by the Curriculum Committee to present information on the proposed middle school schedule again to allow additional questions to be asked. Dr. Davidheiser's original presentation can be found at <http://www.cbsd.org/Page/38222>. Tonight's presentation was a summary of the original presentation on May 10, 2017.

Ms. Evans asked for clarification on what the Advisory period would look like and asked if it is like the Advisory program at the high schools. Dr. Davidheiser explained that this would be a similar model at the middle school and the advisory teacher could loop with their Advisory class. Mr. Wohl asked for clarification on what the Innovation and Creativity course would be and is there any additional cost for materials for this course. Dr. Davidheiser explained that this will be a hands-on and a problem-based course that would not require textbooks. Ms. Darcy expressed that the middle school schedule committee expressed that there is a need for our 7th graders to have more research and presentation skills. Ms. Collopy suggested that increasing the class size would reduce the number of teachers to save money. Mr. Wohl commented that the new courses should be smaller due to the nature of these courses. Mr. Faulkner expressed concern on how we are going to be paying for the additional teachers. Mr. Faulkner is not questioning what is best for kids but again is expressing concerns on the costs. Mr. Wohl also expressed concern about the additional costs. Mr. Kopicki explained the budget process and cautioned against the larger class sizes. Ms. Collopy suggested that the Innovation and Creativity course be an elective and not mandatory.

There was discussion on the 9th grade sports and after-school club proposal as well. Mr. Faulkner asked if other districts are bringing back 9th grade sports. Dr. Davidheiser explained that most of the 9th grade competitions will be among our own schools but there are a few other districts that we are trying to work with. Other districts are also seeing results of students not making onto a high school team and not having another option to play. Dr. Davidheiser explained that we would be controlling the schedule

which would allow the district to limit the number of times that a student would need to leave at the end of the day. Mr. Kopicki explained that the transportation needs will be addressed and that there is money to increase our bus fleet. Ms. Evans asked about the after-school clubs and transportation. Dr. Davidheiser explained that any after school club would still need to be the responsibility of the parents to pick up any students participating in a club.

The middle school proposal will be discussed at the Board meeting on May 23, 2017.

Technology Vision 2017—Beyond—Mr. Jason Jaffe, Director of Technology and Innovation, presented information on the Future Ready Schools program. Mr. Jaffe gave some background information on the timeline, the district’s vision and where the committee is today. Mr. Jaffe spoke about the need to improve our wireless equipment and capabilities. Mr. Jaffe also presented information on other equipment needs for the buildings and classrooms and moving towards one-to-one in our classrooms. Mr. Jaffe explained the need and the benefits of going one-to-one. Many of the surrounding school districts are already using the one-on-one model. Mr. Brian Novick, Holicong Teacher, is piloting one-on-one and explained the benefits of having technology in the hands of all his students.

Mr. Faulkner asked if it is possible to sell any of the current equipment that is being proposed to be replaced. Mr. Jaffe explained that he is already looking into that possibility, however the equipment is out dated and there isn’t much resale value. Ms. Collopy asked if this was already in the budget proposal. Mr. Jaffe explained that this is already included in the budget proposal and that this was a more in-depth explanation. Questions were asked about the model laptop that is being proposed. Mr. Jaffe explained that these are more durable laptops and support the Microsoft platform. There are cheaper alternatives but are often not as durable or support Microsoft programs. Ms. Evans asked if each student would be assigned a device. Mr. Jaffe explained that a student would be assigned a device for three years in middle school and then would be assigned a different device for the next three years of high school. Mr. Jaffe is researching insurance options for protection of any equipment that would be assigned to a student.

Mr. Weldon asked about the cost. Mr. Jaffe is aware of the cost but wants to ensure that we are providing the best technology and not just what is cheaper and feels that this will not cost more than maintaining the current equipment. Ms. Smith and Mr. Wohl are in support of the proposal. Ms. Collopy expressed that she does not support the one-to-one initiative and wants to see achievement measurements and the educational value to providing devices to all students. Mr. Faulkner stated that the this is great proposal and feels that the district is moving in the right direction and thanked Mr. Jaffe for his continued effort to providing the best technology and always being cost conscience.

Adjournment—meeting adjourned 9:24 PM

Next Meeting — June 14, 2017