

**EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
EDUCATION PROGRAMS & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING  
August 10, 2022  
VIA Zoom  
7:00 P.M.  
Minutes**

**I. The Chairperson,** Dr. Damary Bonilla, called the Education Programs & Resources Committee meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Secretary Amy Famighetti called the roll.

**II. Board Committee Members Present:** Dr. Damary Bonilla, Rebecca Bear and Debbie Kulick

**III. School Personnel Present:** William Vitulli, Angela Byrne, Erin Dreisbach, Heather Piperato, Shahida Jones, Matt Sadowsky, Lisa Vitulli

**IV. Community Members Present:** Shanice Person-Correa, Nicole Miller

**V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Dr. Bonilla asked for a motion to approve the agenda for August 10, 2022, with members of the Committee reserving the right to add to the agenda and take further action in the best interest of the District. A motion was made by Debbie Kulick and Rebecca Bear seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Motion was made by Rebecca Bear and seconded by Debbie Kulick to approve the minutes for the June 8, 2022 and July 13, 2022 meeting.

**VI. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

**a. DEI Update-Trenee Lurry**

Dr. Vitulli took a moment to move the DEI Update to later in the program as Trenee Lurry was unable to attend tonight and asked Dr. Bonilla if he should read the update. Dr. Bonilla confirms. Preparation for the 2022-2023 school year is underway planning training and further engagement. The team will continue to be goal focused as we recognize preparation for this year meetings will resume in September. Dr. Bonilla thanks Dr. Vitulli and shares a conversation she had with a student about DEI.

**b. Grant Success-Angela Byrne**

Dr. Vitulli wanted to recognize Angela in the hard work and helping utilizing the grants in such a way to not just help the students grow, but to help reconnect with the community. Angela Byrne started her presentation with ten new grants, with half being formula grants. Meaning they came through federal funds to the state then to us. The TSI Set Aside grant is for the high schools. The rest of the formula grants are as follows: After School Set Aside, Summer School Set Aside, Learning Loss Set Aside, and the newest one being Homeless Children & Youth. The Homeless Children & Youth is specifically for our homeless children and families. We partner with Family Promise of Monroe County, who at any given time has 4-6 of our students and their families in their shelter. This grant makes sure they have

everything they need to get out of the shelter and into a home. Angela gave a slight recap of what we're doing competitively such as, Safe Schools Equipment, which we used to purchase a new emergency communication system for ESE. Highmark gave us a small grant that was earmarked for restorative justice training for our secondary school teams. Dale & Frances Hughes funded all new AD and CPR training equipment. The new equipment we will be able to train approximately 200 staff members a year opposed to about 50 right now. Food and Services Equipment we were able to buy a convection steamer for High School South. This will be our sixth year with the Educational Improvement Tax Credit which funds presentations and supplies for our Summer STEAM\*R.

Our title grants are as follows:

Kindersiversity / KG Fair, Quick Start to Kindergarten, Summer Movie & Book Nights, STEAM\*R Summer Enrichment Program, YMCA Before & After School Program and Scholarships, YMCA Summer Care Scholarships, and ESL Summer Tutoring.

We were able to partner with Pocono Mountains United Way to provide: SMILE In-Home Mentoring Program and Healthy Start Early Childhood Education. Title I and Title II we are required to support our non-public schools. The ones in our district for this year were Notre Dame Elementary and Notre Dame High School. With those funds from Title I Angela explains we contract with the IU to provide reading and math support for students that are struggling in their school. With the Title II grant it provides professional development for the non-public teachers.

Angela went over the COVID-relief funding which was able to offer the following:

Extended Learning, Opportunities (ELO), AcadeMe Summer Enrichment, Pre-High School Programs, Keystone Boot camps, Summer Academic Labs, Virtual Classroom Help, New After-school Clubs/Intramurals, Additional staff to support small-group Language Arts & Math Instruction, and Flexible Seating Classrooms.

Angela Byrne opened it up to any questions. Dr. Bonilla wanted to say how proud she is and thank Angela for all the work she does. Rebecca Bear also wanted to thank Angela for everything she does and truly makes a difference for students, parents, and school districts. Debbie Kulick would like to also thank Angela and would like to have the presentations posted on our website for people to view. Dr. Bonilla would like to figure out how we can promote these programs more to let the community know everything we are doing for our students. Suggested some sort of informational session where Angela can talk through all the different programs and highlight them. Dr. Vitulli sees a big effort to reconnect families with our school districts and then connecting the school districts with the community.

\*Presentation is available by contacting Angela Byrne

### **c. YMCA Programs at ESASD - Nicole Miller**

Dr. Vitulli introduces Nicole Miller who is the director of the before and after school programming. Nicole would like to start off by saying the YMCA is very excited to be partnering with ESASD. Nicole went over that they came up with a really great plan to get not only Bushkill up and running with the before and after school program but then to also include the other school districts. Continued to go on about the benefits of the program and also what parents agree with as well. Nicole went over the background of the program and some key points. Went on to explain that with this program parents actually get to drop off and pick up right at the school. The students can do homework, work in the cafeteria, or even get in the gym or out on the playground. A bonus to this program is that even when the schools are closed the YMCA still offers care. They may be closed on National Holidays but the

week before the Holiday they are open and running the program. Nicole then went over the opportunities that they provide for families that can't afford to pay, as they accept subsidy, meaning all the parents have to do is pay a copay. They also would have the opportunity to apply for the ESASD scholarship along with the YMCA that also offers scholarships for the families. Nicole Miller opened up the presentation to any questions. Dr. Bonilla would like to thank Nicole for all the work that she does, the partnership, and the presentation. Debbie Kulick is happy that we are able to expand and reach the area. Would like to see this have its own page to promote this program on the site. Rebecca Bear is excited for the daycare to be brought to the North schools, Bushkill, Lehman, and HSN, as they have no current daycare up there. She is excited as the students will now be able to enjoy the activities at school that they couldn't do before. Rebecca also believes this is benefiting the entire community and thanks Nicole and the YMCA for doing this. Debbie Kulick would like to know how we are reaching out to the families to make sure this is successful and available. Dr. Vitulli asked Nicole if she minds if he answers. Dr. Vitulli states that with ESE, Bushkill, and JM Hill they have utilized the relationship with the principals and using their own methods of doing making it very effective. The parents sign up and get these alerts that this program is available. Also, schools have followed up with a ConnectED email. Nicole Miller would like to piggyback off of that and explain in addition to that this Summer they have had a huge turnout for their camp. Which she believes a lot of it has to do with the scholarship opportunities. The YMCA also has this program advertised on their website as well so it is available to the community that way. Dr. Bonilla wonders if we could advertise with our elected officials to send out newsletters and put out information. Rebecca Bear would like to know when new students register if we give them information on this program and put it in the welcome packet. Also, with all the different communities she wonders if we can connect with the community leaders within the developments to put in their newspapers to advertise. Dr. Bonilla would like to thank Nicole Miller for the opportunities and the hard and good work put in.

\*Presentation is available by contacting Nicole Miller at the YMCA

#### **d. Back-2-School - Shahida Jones**

Dr. Vitulli introduced the next item for discussion, informing from a previous meeting that was suggested to have some tips for parents and children to start off the school year. Dr. Vitulli introduced Shahida Jones and Erin Dreisbach who will provide the meeting with the tips and pointers to ease into the new school year for both parents and kids. Shahida started off with how students normally feel about starting a new school year. Continued to go through the routines they should start two weeks before school and the morning of. Including: sleep schedule that they should follow, allowing enough time to get ready in the AM, and eating a balanced breakfast at home. Erin went over the after school routine that is helpful to the kids and what works best for them. Including: homework right away, having a snack to fuel the brain and body, and joining an after school activity/having quality time with parents. Parents may want to consider an extracurricular activity as a great way to focus on something the child is passionate about and helps form friendships outside of school. Erin also provided information on different activities you can do based on what the child needs, example being high energy. Erin discussed a good bedtime routine that kids should have during the school year. Including: going to bed early enough to allow at least 8 hours of sleep, brushing teeth, picking out the clothes for the next day, making sure the backpack is packed, and no electronics prior to bedtime. Erin explains the benefits of keeping the technology out of the bedtime routine as this can be a distraction to them. Continued to go over ways to make the week smoother for them not only the kids but also the parents. Shahida Jones then took over to

go over some support and resources that will help the transition to the school year. Including: Student Assistance Program (SAP) and on ESASD web page under pupil services there is a list of all services offered in school and in the community. She also discussed the upcoming months Erin and Shahida will be presenting more in depth on resources that we provide with our school district, but wanted the colleagues and community members at the meeting to be aware of the resources and where to find them. Shahida opened up the meeting to any questions. Rebecca Bear wanted to thank Shahida and Erin for the presentation. Dr. Bonilla added that she was thinking of some tips to help. Dr. Bonilla asked Dr. Vitulli if we are going to share the slides with a ConnectED email. Dr. Vitulli agrees and will work with Shahida and Erin to get this out there.

\*Presentation available by contacting Shahida Jones or Erin Dreisbach

#### **e. Movie & a Book Update**

Dr. Vitulli started the next item which we partnered with Pocono Cinema to provide a movie for free and Angela Byrne arranged to help get books for the night. Introduces Mr. Sadowsky to go over the event. Mr. Sadowsky starts off by thanking Angela Byrne for her help and participation. Dr. Vitulli is a really big advocate for reconnecting our families with the schools and also partnering with the community. Mr. Sadowsky went over how they decided which movies were picked and used the Title I grant to get the movie theater. Explained that he would keep hearing from families that really want to help the kids and make reading rewarding. Mr. Sadowsky showed the attendance for the event and believes once the word gets out we will have a bigger turnout. Also shared a story from the event to showcase how great this event is. Dr. Vitulli gave special thanks to: Matt Sadowsky, Jennifer Moriarty, Lisa Vitulli, Angela Byrne, and the Title 1 Fund. Mr. Sadowsky gives thanks to Dr. Vitulli for coming to the event and his leadership that allows us to do this event to have time to engage with families. Mr. Sadowsky opens it up for questions or comments. Dr. Bonilla thanks and talks about her experience as she was able to attend the event. It is nice to see the kids be excited and happy. Debbie Kulick adds thanks to everyone involved as it was a phenomenal program. Rebecca Bear adds as well it was a great event and thanks everyone involved.

\*Presentation is available by contacting Matt Sadowsky at Bushkill Elementary

### **VII. Questions & Comments from Board Committee Members on agenda items**

There are no questions from Board Committee Members.

### **VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – LIMITED TO ITEMS OF DISCUSSION**

Dr. Bonilla opens up the discussion to the public and asks for any questions or comments. Shanice Person-Correa starts discussion by wondering how inclusive the program at the YMCA is as her son has autism and is non-verbal. She believes it seems to be a wonderful program and able to help many people but will it help all the families that need it? Shanice is concerned as she never received any email about the programs we provide. She also has been turned away from daycares before due to them not having the capacity to take care of him. Feels that she and other families with kids that have disabilities are being excluded from these programs and feels maybe it is on her. Dr. Bonilla adds that it is not on Shanice it is on all of us to figure out how to be more inclusive. Dr. Bonilla appreciates the courage that Shanice is putting forth and sharing her son's journey. Dr. Bonilla apologizes that Shanice feels unheard and unseen and asks if anyone on the team can address some of what was just shared. Dr. Vitulli adds he also feels awful and that he doesn't have all the information to respond fully. Dr. Vitulli would like to do more research and find out deeper about some of these programs and how they are advertised. Dr. Bonilla would like to go back and collect the right information and ask the right questions and then have

meaningful discussion and take the right steps and what we can do better. Dr. Bonilla asks Shanice if she had any other questions or anything else to share. Shanice thanks and appreciates the efforts and looks forward to working to improve this situation. Dr. Bonilla thanks Shanice and will have an update emailed to her personally and then one for the next meeting. Rebecca Bear congratulates Shanice on her son going to kindergarten. Dr. Bonilla asks if there are any other comments or questions. Rebecca Bear asks if Shanice can think of activities that will also be inclusive to her son's needs and how we can engage everybody in the community. Shanice agrees to brainstorm and seek input from other professionals as well.

**IX. NEXT MEETING** - Wednesday, September 14, 2022

**X. ADJOURNMENT: 8:39 pm**

Respectfully submitted,  
Devyn Kolcun