

**EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
EDUCATION PROGRAMS & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING  
October 12, 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 Jessica Newberry called the roll.
- II. Board Committee Members Present:** Dr. Damary Bonilla, Rebecca Bear, Debbie Kulick, George Andrews, and Jason Gullstrand.
- III. School Personnel Present:** William Riker, William Vitulli, Patricia Rosado, Marialena Casciotta, Trenee Lurry, Heather Piperato, Erin Dreisbach, Janice Rodriguez, Tabitha Bradley, Jessica Newberry, Shahida Jones, Manvel Page
- IV. Community Members Present:** Shanice Person-Correa, Jennifer Floyd, Darryl Sabino, Maria Hopkins
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

**RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE:** Dr. Bonilla asked for a motion to approve the agenda for October 12, 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 BY THE COMMITTEE:** Motion was made by Jason Gullstrand and seconded by to approve the minutes for the September, 14, 2022 meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

**VI. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

**a. DEI Update - Trenee Lurry**

Dr. Vitulli introduces Trenee Lurry for the DEI Update. Trenee starts off the discussion with a highlight of this month which included the first Coffee Chat. Trenee goes on to explain that the Coffee Chats are a way for us to showcase the diversity within our school community. The topics will vary based on a monthly observance or topic that can be highlighted. Trenee goes over September's chat with Michelle Allen who is a paraprofessional at Lehman Intermediate and the topic was Sign Language, as it was American Sign Language Month. Michelle shared aspects of deaf culture, and instructed simple signs. The next Coffee Chat will be 10/14 to which the topic of discussion will be Hispanic Heritage in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month. Trenee adds that including in her update she will acknowledge holidays that we may not typically know of. Trenee Lurry concludes her update in listing the holidays from September and October. Dr. Bonilla thanks Trenee for the update and shares experience she had with Michelle Allen. Rebecca Bear shares she loves hearing about all the holidays and what they are. Dr. Bonilla shares that she would like anyone who would like to add a holiday that they celebrate that may not be listed to reach out to Trenee so we can observe. Debbie Kulick does not have any questions at this time. Jason Gullstrand agrees with Rebecca Bear and it is good to know the holidays.

## **b. PTO Update - Darryl Sabino**

Dr. Vitulli introduces Darryl Sabino, the treasurer of the PTO for JTL and High School South, who is going to share some updates that the PTO is doing. Darryl starts off with going over all the events that they had planned for this year including, a sixth grade social so students can meet the other sixth graders in their classes, a seventh grade dance, and an eighth grade formal. Mrs. Sabino also went over the book fair and school store that are brought to the schools from the fundraisers. The PTO is also working with High School South to assist the principal, assistant principal, and teachers with whatever help is needed. They also purchased “Terrible Towels” for The Cav Crazies who are a group of students who sit at the Purple Pit during football games. Darryl goes over events and items they did last year to also give some ideas for this year. These included: ice cream at field day @ JTL that the PTO paid for to make sure every kid got ice cream instead of having the kids pay for it, in 11th grade they were going on a walking field trip and pay for ice cream which the PTO also paid for instead, and prizes that were given out to the students. Darryl goes over two fundraisers that they normally do, clock drawing and tricky tray. Dr. Bonilla expresses that she loves being able to hear all the events and things the PTO is doing to help out the students. Darryl adds the positive wording that they had added into the bathrooms for the students. Dr. Bonilla thanks Darryl and the PTO for everything they do and appreciates the work. Rebecca Bear thanks Darryl for everything that she does for the PTO and wants everyone to see the photos from the events. Debbie Kulick adds thanks for all she does and asks if the photos can be turned over to the halls of walls people so we can keep current. Jason Gullstrand thanks and appreciates the work. George Andrews says thanks and expresses that Darryl is very active with the community and schools and appreciates. Dr. Bonilla asks Darryl to share all PTO members' names to give thanks to them as well. These names include: Audrey Garrett (President), Melissa Owens (Recording Secretary), and Maria Hopkins (Corresponding Secretary). Dr. Vitulli shares some of the photos that were taken at the events. Heather Piperato shares her experiences with the PTO and how much she thinks the PTO has grown and how awesome it became.

## **c. SEL Updates - Shahida Jones**

Dr. Vitulli introduces Shahida Jones to share the SEL Updates. Mrs. Jones starts off with going over that they are continuing with the K-2 program, Mindup, that they utilize and teaches the kids about the brain and how to use different strategies during times of frustration. This program also teaches how we keep ourselves calm and be able to focus better on academics and learning. Shahida goes on to explain that we also have Zones of Regulation which are utilized in third, fourth, and fifth grade. This is where the students will learn self-regulation and being able to manage their emotions better. Mrs. Jones explains that most people don't want to be in the red zone and she continues to point out that it is okay to be angry and feel that emotion but it is how we manage it and handle it, so it teaches them all these different skills and in that moment of anger or moments of being sad they will learn how to manage it. Shahida explains these are typically taught in the morning before the academic components. Dr. Bonilla asks the members of the committee if they have any questions or comments. Debbie Kulick adds that she appreciates the programs. Rebecca Bear was not able to comment due to connectivity issues. Jason Gullstrand appreciates all the work that goes into doing these checks. He adds also seeing how it is moved along within the school is really important that it does benefit everyone. Dr. Bonilla adds how important it is to support our students through recognizing the emotions that they are experiencing and being able to manage are critical and she appreciates the update as a way to educate our school community and our broader community. George Andrews has no questions but he learned a little from the update.

#### **d. Parent Training Updates - Shahida Jones**

Shahida Jones starts off this section with information on our parent and caregiver workshops through IU20. The workshops that are provided are offered to all the school districts in the area and they have different mental health professionals, i.e. licensed social workers, professional counselors. Shahida goes on to explain that they have workshops monthly and in September it was for mindfulness and other tools for emotional regulation. There will be other workshops coming up for the year including:

- October 18 - teaching your child to embrace diversity is essential to their growth
- November 15 - how to protect your children from the dangers of social media
- December 13 - helping my child develop healthy, social, and emotional skills
- January 17 - what parents need to know about children's mental health
- February 21- suicide what to look for and how to respond
- March 21 - overcoming the challenges of co-parenting and blended families
- April 18 - how to talk to children about self-harm, depression, and anxiety
- May 16 - mental health awareness (a closer look at mental health disorders and how to raise awareness)

Shahida explains that all these will be on our district website and they will be zoom training. Mrs. Jones goes on to say Ken Smith with the IU20 has identified East Stroudsburg has the highest participation out of all the districts in the counties that the IU20 serves. Dr. Bonilla thanks Shahida for sharing so we can make sure families take advantage of these workshops. She adds that it is beneficial to all the families. Jason Gullstrand adds that it is fantastic that we offer these programs and make them readily available. He adds that he appreciates all the work. Debbie Kulick hopes that we are working to communicate to the public so we can promote the good programs that we are doing. She adds not only on the website but also through the media. Dr. Bonilla adds that Eric and his team are promoting through social media and IU20 is sending out via newsletters as well. Rebecca Bear adds that it is great that we are doing all these programs. She agrees with Debbie Kulick that she hopes they are communicating it out other than the website or the newsletter. George Andrews likes the topics that were chosen this year.

#### **e. New IU20 BCBA Positions (2) - Shahida Jones**

Shahida Jones starts the last update from their office which is our Board Certified Behavior Analyst. She continues to add that we are using the IDEA grant to support two positions for this. Their position includes helping conduct functional behavior assessments to identify what the function of behaviors are. They also will provide appropriate interventions for the specific behaviors in order to help reduce the behaviors from occurring across multiple settings. Shahida goes on to explain it is really to help our kids within the district. Shahida asks Maria Casciotta, who is the Director of Elementary Pupil Services, if she wanted to elaborate on the positions and what they are for. Maria responds that Shahida did a great job explaining it and that this is a service that we have needed for a long time and appreciates the support that they have to obtain these services. Dr. Bonilla asks for questions or comments from the committee. Jason Gullstrand says that it is a great position to have. Debbie Kulick does not have any comments but says thanks. Rebecca Bear is looking forward to the success of the program and the grant that we have and how it is working and how we are helping our students in the future. George Andrews agrees with Rebecca Bear and is interested to see how the program works out. Dr. Bonilla adds it is exciting to have the funding and the support to be able to bring on additional people to help and work with our students. She adds that the resources are needed especially since needs are always changing and many needs are emerging.

## **f. EL Updates - Janice Rodriguez**

Dr. Vitulli introduces Janice Rodriguez who runs the EL Program. Janice starts off explaining that they had exclusively met virtually for 20 months straight. Janice goes on to share that they have adults attending the class from ten different countries over the last two years. Mrs. Rodriguez goes on to explain that there were three adults who attended the class that became American citizens, which makes a total of five to six running the last 12 years. Janice goes on to share an event they had at Resica's Pavilion where they actually got to meet each other in person and talk with each other. They have their classes virtually as the students prefer this method of learning as some do not have transportation to make it in person and have the ability to have the class in the evening making it easier for them to attend. Janice also explains that they preferred virtual as well due to being able to take turns and being able to listen to each other and for Mrs. Rodriguez is able to listen to them as well. Janice ends by sharing that there are 16 active students coming from the following: Thailand, Poland, South Korea, Philippines, Dominican Republic, Brazil, Columbia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela. Dr. Bonilla shares that it is exciting to see and celebrate the citizenships and the support that is provided. She adds that she also appreciates the work that Janice is doing. Jason Gullstrand that everything is fantastic and gives congratulations to the participants who got their citizenships. Rebecca Bear adds that she thanks Janice and loves hearing the success of her class and has met students who have taken the class and have said how much they enjoy it. Debbie Kulick adds that this program is perfect and would like Janice to email her so she can talk about the success of the program and do an article in the paper for the class. George Andrews adds congratulations and thanks for all the hard work.

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

There are no questions from Board Committee Members.

## **VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – LIMITED TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Dr. Bonilla opens up the meeting to public discussion. Shanice Person-Correa thanks everyone for their fantastic presentations and being an all-around great district. She adds that it just goes to show also the fantastic work from community members and teachers that are helping make East Stroudsburg a better place. Shanice asks Shahida Jones what they can do in the community, if anything, to help and what rolling out the two BCBA's look like. She would like to know if this would increase or decrease the need for things such as autistic support. Shahida explains that the BCBA is a new position and it will help us appropriately place students that may need more support and make sure we have those interventions. She explains that they are looking at the whole child and she can't say that we won't specifically see a giant decrease in autistic support but it would help appropriately placing students where needed. Maria Casciotta adds that the BCBA's will not decrease or increase autistic support programming, they will assist on doing observations and help our teams implement some strategies. She adds if the community would like to help to take some classes if wanted to and to get on the substitute list as it would be very helpful. Shanice asks about the reflection coach and if the BCBA would be helping with that or if it is completely different. Shahida turns the question to Erin Dreisbach to answer as the reflections coach is more for secondary. Erin Dreisbach adds that the BCBA and the reflections coach at this time would not be working together. Dr. Bonilla adds that even though they do not work together we are able to leverage communication and pull bits and pieces from each and bring it together. Dr. Vitulli adds that it makes a lot of sense to coordinate all these efforts and build off each other's strengths and support each other's weaknesses. Dr. Bonilla closes public participation.

**RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE:**

Previously submitted to the Finance Committee:

- A. Edmentum/Reading Eggs Renewal - \$9,264.80 (VII.a.)
- B. 3P learning/Mathseeds Renewal - \$13,271.50 (VII.b.)

**RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE:** Motion to move items A and B to the full board made by Debbie Kulick and seconded by Jason Gullstrand. The motion was carried unanimously.

**IX. NEXT MEETING - Wednesday, November 9, 2022**

**RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE:** Motion to adjourn was made by Debbie Kulick and seconded by Jason Gullstrand. The motion was carried unanimously.

**X. ADJOURNMENT: 8:11 pm**

Respectfully submitted,  
Devyn Kolcun