

**EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
EDUCATION PROGRAMS & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING
November 9, 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 Devyn Kolcun called the roll.

II. Board Committee Members Present: Dr. Damary Bonilla, Rebecca Bear, Debbie Kulick, George Andrews. Jason Gullstrand will not be able to attend tonight.

III. School Personnel Present: William Riker, William Vitulli, Erin Dreisbach, Eric Forsyth, Benjamin Brenneman, Brian Baddick, Marialena Casciotta, Frederick Mill, Trenee Lurry, Amy Polmounter, Jason Picciano, Carissa Johnson, Robert Breiner, Paul Kernan, Devyn Kolcun

IV. Community Members Present: Kasey Nannery, Jennifer Floyd, Rayshawn, Ebony Martin-Anderson, Venus Morales

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE: Dr. Bonilla asked for a motion to approve the agenda for November 9, 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 Debbie Kulick and seconded by Rebecca Bear to approve the minutes for the October 12, 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 with some highlights of this month. She discusses the coffee chats that she has and explains that they are a way to showcase the diversity within our school community. Last month's coffee chat was hosted by Maria Dejesus Perez, an IU20 employee, and she shared many great aspects of her Hispanic heritage. Trenee goes on to share that for November they will observe military family month, Native American heritage month, transgender awareness week, and National day of tolerance. Trenee closes out asking if anything this month is missed to reach out and she will add it on. Dr. Bonilla thanks Trenee for leading the work and creating the opportunity for our staff to be able to share about themselves and celebrate diversity within the staff. George Andrews would like to have the list that shows all the different days that they are celebrating.

b. PTO

Dr. Bonilla explains we will be circling back to this topic as they were unable to finalize the representative.

c. Senior Survey Results - Mr. Brenneman and Mr. Triolo

Dr. Vitulli starts the presentation by discussing that they had revamped some of the senior survey questions to try and gain a little more insight out of those questions. Mr. Triolo is out sick tonight and was unable to attend the meeting. Dr. Vitulli begins to show some of the questions that were asked and what the seniors had responded with. Those questions include:

- When did you start your educational journey with ESASD?
- How many years did you attend your HS in person?
- Have you ever attended ESACA as a full-time student?
- Which grade(s) did you primarily attend ESACA?
- Option that best fits your plans for next year?

The presentation also includes different courses that students were able to rate how satisfied they were with the course. Dr. Vitulli turns the presentation over to Mr. Brenneman who is going to go over the open responses for some of the questions. He goes over that the top student responses were focused around academic learning experiences, student voice, and connections to and within school. Mr. Brenneman lists some of the ways that they broke down each category on how to improve those categories. The additional responses that students had included:

- 33 students reported they wanted a combination of better mental health and career readiness support
- 26 students reported having a great learning experience and appreciated the academic supports that were provided to them

Mr. Brenneman goes over the responses they have received for the question, what advice, if any, would you give entering 9th graders and how can we improve our learning experiences for future generations. Dr. Bonilla would like to know how we are sharing the information with the new students. Mr. Brenneman responds that himself and Mr. Triolo discussed that they think they should present it to them and have the conversation with the ninth graders. Rebecca Bear would like to know if we required all seniors to take the survey or if it was optional. Mr. Brenneman advises that they did not mandate the senior survey, it was pushed out and strongly recommended that they take the survey. He also adds that they can have the discussion of making it mandatory or continue to push it out and encourage the students to participate. Debbie Kulick adds that she would love to see it compared to previous surveys to see if there would be any trends throughout. Dr. Vitulli responds that this survey is slightly different than the previous one but could make some good comparisons. Debbie adds that we could possibly see a five-year trend. Rebecca Bear asks if in the future we could have the seniors do snapshot videos of themselves giving the advice to the freshman. Mr. Brenneman agrees that would be something they can look into so it would be a peer giving the advice. Dr. Bonilla adds that she thinks sharing the information through different methods will be helpful and incorporating it through the school with posters or flyers to help the students see it also.

** Presentation is available by contacting Dr. Vitulli

d. Vaping - Erin Dreisbach and Shae Jones

Dr. Vitulli begins this topic by explaining that vaping is a real issue within high school students. He explains that this is something that we deal with constantly within the schools and that vaping seems to be readily available to any student anywhere. Dr. Vitulli goes on to go over the program that is set if a student gets caught vaping they will have to attend a mini class where they would have to go in and review some of the concerns and dangers of vaping and then respond to some tests that they have. Dr. Vitulli continues that if the students participate, show some effort in the class, and pass then they are able to return to the classroom. However, if they are caught vaping

twice it could escalate in the number of days of suspension. Students are given the opportunity at the end of the class to advise that they need more help or if they can do it on their own. Dr. Vitulli then will send them to Erin Dreisbach or Shae Jones and express that the students are requesting additional help. Erin Dreisbach starts her presentation with information provided through Catch My Breath. She explains that this is an evidence based youth nicotine vaping prevention program that has school, community, and parent toolkits. Ms. Dreisbach includes some data from ESASD Pennsylvania Youth Survey to show that the students who reported that they vape has gone down from 232 to 170. Erin includes some tips on how parents can have the conversation with their children and what to bring up to help the children understand. Erin lists some resources that will help parents have the tough discussions and help get them to understand the long term effects that they may not be thinking about. Erin also shares that they will be offering a parent training that will be held in December and once she gets the date she will make sure that it gets out to the parents. Dr. Bonilla adds that it is important to have these conversations to arm our parents and guardians to be able to recognize and be aware. She adds that it is great and important to get this information out to the community and liked being able to see the resources available. Dr. Bonilla wants to make it also aware that it is not just high school students it is also younger children as well. Erin adds that a lot of the advertisement is geared to the younger kids. Debbie Kulick would like to know if there was a program like the one that was offered to the staff members that we could do for the parents to come to. Erin responds that they will be doing an online training class for all parents throughout the school district. Rebecca Bear was happy that photos were shown as some she wasn't aware what they had looked like and agrees with Debbie as she thinks it is important as a lot of parents do also vape.

** Presentation is available by contacting Erin Dreisbach

e. Safe2Say - Chief Mill

Dr. Vitulli introduces Chief Mill who will be going over the Safe2Say Program. Chief Mill gives some background on Safe2Say including, it started January 19,2019, it was instituted by the Attorney General's office of Pennsylvania, and it is an anonymous tip line that students, staff, and parents can call if they are concerned about an individual. He continues to give examples of calls they have received, such as, violence, drugs, weapons, suicide, etc. Chief Mill explains that they work closely with the state and local police with every call they get. He goes on to give an example of what a call might be and how they handle the call after the student, parent, or staff member calls. These include sending out state police to do welfare checks on who the call is about. Dr. Bonilla appreciates the opportunity to prevent situations from happening. She shares that we want people to feel like they have an avenue to be able to share information that they know might not feel comfortable sharing. Chief Mill advises that the kids are using the Safe2Say as they have so far have had 557 tips. He goes on to explain that they have trainings with the schools to show the kids how to use it and what it does. Debbie Kulick would like to have general information or a general report that can go on the website. Chief Mill expresses that he can do one and post it, but he does have concerns if the public wants to know about what is going on. Debbie Kulick adds that it could be anonymous and just give general numbers on the report. Dr. Bonilla recommends Chief Mill discusses it with his team a Brian's team and does not recommend to post it at this time only if there is information that we think would be helpful around key issues. Rebecca Bear would like to know if there is a way to also report unfounded items and then send out an email to let families know that we have looked into it and this is what we have discovered. Chief Mill explains that they have done that in the past. Dr. Bonilla shares a story on why it is important to share important information in terms of security and safety. She asks Chief Mill to explain why it is important why we don't share every single detail with everyone every time. Chief Mill responds that the superintendent, Eric, and himself will sit down and discuss what they can release to the public. He explains that they just need to be careful enough with what they say but also letting the public know that everything is safe. Dr. Bonilla asks about some of the safety devices and sharing

the information with the parents or guardians is sharing it with the public. Chief Mill expresses some of the improvements that they had since he started which include, more police officers, more security guards, 331 cameras in the North campus, and changing location of the building greeters to make it more safe. He goes on to explain that Alice Training has been given to all students in case of an active shooter situation. Chief Mill then goes on to give some examples of what is coming shortly, such as, metal detectors, a new policy letting bags into sporting events, more bollards and protection for the school, and exit door alarms. Dr. Bonilla thanks Chief Mill for sharing that information and expresses that they want to share enough that the community understands that we are not sitting on situations. Dr. Bonilla adds that this is a partnership and it is important that family members also understand their role in helping keep all of our students safe. Dr. Bonilla expresses that we want to be on top of it together. Rebecca Bear thanks Chief Mill for going over the information and is happy with how it is being handled. She also adds that she encourages everyone to use Safe2Say. Debbie Kulick would like Chief Mill to explain Alice training. Chief Mill explains that it is basically a run hide situation and gives examples of what this might look like.

f. Teachers Enhancing Home/School Communications Using Sapphire Gradebook and Community Web Portal - Eric Forsyth

Dr. Vitulli introduces Eric Forsyth, Amy Polmounter, Paul Kernan, Robert Breiner, and Carissa Johnson. Eric Forsyth starts off by introducing the topic of Sapphire community portal as well as the Sapphire LMS or gradebook. Carissa Johnson explains what exactly different staff/students use Sapphire for. She goes on to explain that LMS stands for Learning Management System which contains lesson plans, seating charts, home school communications, and calculates their grades. Eric Forsyth goes over the Reporting Student Progress policy and how we share the information that is being recorded at school and the students' academic progress. Mr. Forsyth introduces Paul Kernan who is the president of the East Stroudsburg Education Association and teaches at High School South. Mr. Kernan explains that he used to use a grade book and then after a year or two transferred over to their first LMS program and then Sapphire was their third program that they have used. He continues to explain that communications are extremely important and were using different methods of communicating and this year he explains that using one system has improved the efficiency and the equity across the district. Mr. Forsyth begins to go over the Sapphire Community Portal and Carissa Johnson explains what the program does, which includes accessing assignments, due dates, grades, and schedules. She goes on to explain that parents will have the same access as the students but also can update information and do absence notes. Amy Polmounter shares as a school leader some of the benefits this program provides for her in the school. She goes on to show how the discipline screen works as parents are also able to see if their child has any detentions, ISS, and OSS. Mr. Forsyth introduces Robert Breiner who will go over the LMS training resources. Mr. Breiner goes over the training videos he has made to help teachers and students feel comfortable working with this program. He explains that it started out just at high school south and grew to be offered for the whole district. Carissa Johnson goes over the SCP resources that are up on the district website and where they can be accessed. She explains these tutorials are all how to and will show parents and students how to create certain items on the program. Dr. Bonilla thanks them for everything they are doing and helping the community, teachers, and students learn how to use these programs. Dr. Bonilla asks in the future how we are looking for additional support for families that English is not their first language. Carissa Johnson responds that Sapphire had put out a survey and asked for the district's top speaking languages and within the next six months to a year they will release the portal in other languages. Debbie Kulick thought it was a great presentation and thanked them for their time. Rebecca Bear adds that she is an avid Sapphire user and that she loves using the program. She also adds that she is excited for the cashless tickets for events and what she would like to see, possibly a cashless method to pay at the concessions as well. Dr. Bonilla appreciates the cheat sheet of the weekly highlights. George Andrews would like to know how community members could get on Sapphire to do the cashless tickets. Eric Forsyth responds that the ticketing will not be through

Sapphire but through Hometown on the Athletics page on the district website. Mr. Forsyth goes on to add that they hope to have this expanded to other events.

**Presentation is available by contacting Eric Forsyth

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

There are no questions from Board Committee Members. Rebecca Bear was dropped from zoom and was not able to get back onto the meeting.

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – LIMITED TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Dr. Bonilla opens up the meeting to public discussion. There are no questions or comments from the public.

IX. ADVISORY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION:

- A. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt-\$6,572.88 (Title 1 Funds)
- B. Learning A-Z-1 Year subscription-\$8,208.00 (Title 1 Funds)

RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE: Motion to move items A and B to the Finance Committee was carried unanimously by Dr. Bonilla and Debbie Kulick - Rebecca Bear was unable to reconnect to zoom

X. NEXT MEETING - TBD

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT: 8:48 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Devyn Kolcun