

**EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
EDUCATION PROGRAMS & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING
March 8, 2023
VIA Zoom
7:00 P.M.
Minutes**

- I. The Chairperson,** Dr. Damary Bonilla, called the Education Programs & Resources Committee meeting to order at 7:08 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, Jason Gullstrand, Debbie Kulick who joined at 7:15 due to tech issues.
- III. School Personnel Present:** William Vitulli, William Riker, Richard Schlameuss, Brian Baddick, George Andrews, Steven Lurry, Shae Jones, Eric Kerstetter, Jennifer Moriarty, Erin Dreisbach, Jonathan Osmun, Devyn Kolcun, Adam Coffman, Marisa Kehr, Tabitha Bradley, Heather Piperato, Trenee Lurry, Gail Kulick, Matt Sadowsky, Matthew Triolo, Benjamin Brenneman, Ray Lenhart, Debra Padavano, Shannon Metzgar, Gina Hennings, Lisa Vitulli, Marialena Casciotta,
- IV. Community Members Present:** Judge Mark, Mike Mancuso, Christopher Brown, Brian Webbe, Louisa Dombioski, John Gerhardt, Margaret Hartman, Carlos Cubas, Mayra Sequén
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE: Dr. Bonilla asked for a motion to approve the agenda for March 8, 2023 which would include the removal of item b. BCBA’s Role in ESASD, 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 Jason Gullstrand and Rebecca Bear seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE: Motion was made by Rebecca Bear and seconded by Jason Gullstrand to approve the minutes for the February 8, 2023 meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

VI. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

a. BE ALLiance Update - Trenee Lurry

Trenee Lurry starts off the update with all the different events that March is packed with along with Women’s History Month, National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, and Gender Equality Month. Trenee then shares all the individual holidays throughout the month that are being recognized. Mrs. Lurry goes over the Coffee Chat that they had held to celebrate Black History Month which included, Women of Color in the Workplace. She shares that they have a second Coffee Chat planned out for the end of the month. Dr. Bonilla thanks Trenee for creating the opportunity for the staff to have these dialogues amongst each other and being able to educate ourselves within the district to celebrate diversity. Rebecca Bear adds that Purim was celebrated 3/7/23 as well which is the celebration of Esther

saving the Jews from King Haman and Ahasuerus who was going to hang them all. Debbie Kulick adds thanks for creating a whole new space for everyone. Jason Gullstrand sends thanks for all the awareness and getting it into the classroom.

****Presentation available by contacting Trenee Lurry or going onto esasd.net**

b. Bullying Prevention - Multiple Presenters

i. Bullying Overview - Dr. Vitulli

Dr. Vitulli starts the presentation with some data that he has compiled. He shares that the presentation will include numerous presenters and going to have different perspectives as well to help parties come away with a better understanding of what bullying is and what we can do to help stop it. Dr. Vitulli provides some definitions of what bullying is and what bullying is not that can be found in our policies and other definitions that are available on other websites including cdc.gov and stopbullying.gov. Dr. Vitulli goes over data from our school district vs. PAYS data on bullying numbers. He then provides a slide of all the programs that ESASD schools have for Bullying Prevention & Intervention. Dr. Bonilla adds that she appreciates everything that was provided from the definitions of bullying to what the buildings are doing to help with this. She also adds that the PAYS data is a good indicator for us of what young people are willing to share and what they are seeing and an opportunity for us to troubleshoot.

****Presentation available by contacting Dr. Vitulli or going onto esasd.net**

ii. Elementary Perspective - Jonathan Osmun - School Counselor

Dr. Vitulli introduces Jonathan Osmun who will be giving a perspective of bullying and precautions they take from the elementary schools within our district. Mr. Osmun starts his presentation with the proactive approaches that the elementary schools are taking to address bullying. He then shares what SWPBIS is, which is The School Wide Positive Behavior Support Program which is a program that is to help improve school and classroom climate by focusing on the positive. Mr. Osmun provides information on the second step curriculum which is a research based curriculum that utilizes and is meant to teach social emotional skills to our students. During the Bullying Prevention Unit students are taught to report bullying to trusted adults which can be either in school or at home and also taught to refuse bullying which they would learn how to stand up for themselves and be positive bystanders. Mr. Osmun shares some information on the month of October which is dedicated to awareness of bullying. Mike Mancuso would like to know if teachers and support staff are proactive in looking for signs of bullying and observing the behaviors of the students. Mr. Osmun shares that at his school they are very proactive and he will also reach out himself if needed and provides a scenario that would happen. Mr. Mancuso asked what are some signs that teachers are taught that would indicate a student is being bullied. Mr. Osmun shares that some of these signs include, change in behavior, an avoidance coming to school, an increase of sick absences, and a decrease in the amount of work that they are completing within school. Shae Jones shares that within elementary schools in our district they do have a good pulse of their students within the building.

****Presentation is available by contacting Jonathan Osmun or going onto esasd.net**

iii. Secondary Schools Perspectives - Secondary Principals

Dr. Vitulli introduces the secondary principals, Mr. Brenneman (HSN), Mr. Triolo (HSS), Mrs. Padavano (LIS), and Mr. Lenhart (JTL) who will be giving their perspective on bullying within their schools. Mr. Triolo starts the presentation by sharing how they take their approach within the secondary schools on handling bullying from the beginning of the year to the end of year. He then shares at the beginning of the year they start off by sharing what the behavior expectations are of their students and what they do to support positive behavioral intervention. Mrs. Padavano adds that they did the administrative roadshow where they would visit every team and every homeroom as an administrative team and go over all of the expectations of the students and make sure the students were able to see their faces and hear from them. Mr. Brenneman shares that they also provide daily announcements that will give constant reminders to students about having issues with bullying. Mr. Triolo shares a slide on how they handle incident reports within the schools. He provides information on what they currently are seeing within their schools which include, social media conflicts, students accusing each other of similar acts, and making fake social media accounts. Mr. Brenneman and Mrs. Padavano share information on the 24 hour bully which would mean the bully is always there on the students phone or social media accounts and students feel they are not even feeling safe at home. Mr. Lenhart shares that it is really important to note that with bullying a lot of the times it happens when they think no one else is watching them. Dr. Bonilla thanks the team for putting together their presentation. Mike Mancuso follows up with that in law enforcement that they hardly get any cooperation from people and from the kids who see serious misconduct and possibly criminal misconduct. Mr. Mancuso shares a story that he has seen happen. Mrs. Padavano shares a positive story of students coming together after a bullying incident that will put their lives in a more positive direction. Mr. Brenneman shares that the Safe2Say reports have also been successful and positive to have those conversations and discussions to prevent any self harm from happening within the schools. Shae Jones shares that the Safe2Say program is anonymous and is a great program for students to use. She also adds that they always touch base with the family any time a threat is made by a child. Jason Gullstrand shares that everything that they are doing is fantastic and appreciates everything that everyone in the district is doing. Rebecca Bear adds that she appreciates that the district does help not only the victim but also the bully themselves as a lot of the times they need help as well. Mrs. Bear adds that she appreciates all the principals for coming together to discuss this important issue. Debbie Kulick shares thanks to everyone who has made the presentation and feels that this information is good to hear and needs to be able to internalize within our district to be successful. Ms. Kulick asks questions based on information shared throughout the presentation including, if parents are receptive to the bullying intervention, what percentage do they see this working after the intervention, do new students benefit from the system as well, and as a group do the principals feel that we would benefit from more social or mental health professionals. Mr. Brenneman and Mr. Triolo answers these questions with that they do see students tend to get better with how they handle conflict with other students, they believe the parents are receptive to the interventions as it is very personal but they are willing to work with the schools, Mr. Triolo does think new students coming in do benefit as it is a scary transition for them and could be difficult, and Mr. Brenneman responds that he believes they do have an adequate amount of support with their kids through the mental health professionals in the secondary level, Jonathan Osmum believes that they could use more at the elementary level. Shae Jones shares some information on the number of mental health professionals she believes we need. Dr. Bonilla thanks everyone for the questions and responses.

****Presentation available by contacting the Secondary Principals or going onto esasd.net**

iv. Bullying Advice for Parents/Guardians - 1st Assistant District Attorney - Michael Mancuso & Detective Brian Webbe - Legal Perspective

Dr. Vitulli introduces Michael Mancuso, Brian Webbe, and Judge Mark who will be sharing their knowledge with bullying. Judge Mark starts by sharing that the PAYS data that was shared is wonderful and for a while there were not many schools in Monroe County that participated in submitting data. He explains that it is the gold standard for data and has been around for more than 40 years. Judge Mark shares that they are going to be holding a PAYS Data Summit which will be held May 12 that will have all the districts and MCTI. This summit will be bringing people in from the state to really learn how to use PAYS Data as a tool. Judge Mark shares information on cross tabbing with technology and this data which would be able to show other categories or questions within the data report. Judge Mark shares that incidents including, sexual abuse of children, harassment by communication, and bribery and extortion, often also lead to criminal and juvenile court. He also agrees that the schools most likely do need more staff members to help within mental health and provides information of The Mental Health Development Services being able to provide mobile services in the schools districts. Mike Mancuso adds that he is really impressed that East Stroudsburg has taken the lead on these issues and that the staff are well versed on the issues and positively motivated. Mr. Mancuso also shares that the mental health crisis is not just in schools and it has been an issue everywhere. He also provides information regarding this day in age it is hard sometimes to investigate and track down as a lot of it can now contain anonymity. Mr. Mancuso goes over forms of bullying and harassment that they do see a lot in the DA's office which include anywhere from traditional bullying and harassment all the way to sexual harassment. Brian Webbe who focuses on technology crimes and internet crimes. Mr. Webbe goes over the process that parents should take if they feel their child is being cyber bullied. He then provides steps that he will take if he is informed of cyberbullying and how they go about finding out who is behind the online profiles even if the profiles are anonymous. Mr. Mancuso asks Brian Webbe if there is anything that the parents can do on their children's phones to help monitor the content. Mr. Webbe responds that he always does stress that the parents should have their passwords for their phone and that there are multiple parental controls that can monitor the child's activity. Brian Webbe shares a website, NetSmarts, which has a lot of information and resources available to parents to help keep their children safe. Mr. Webbe shares how law enforcement would be able to also get access to the phone if it was brought in and the parents didn't know the passcode. Brian Webbe and Mike Mancuso provide scenarios about when they receive phones as evidence and how they can get access to the phone in different situations. Dr. Bonilla thanks them for their time and discussion back and forth about the subject. Rebecca Bear adds that she appreciates the dialogue back and forth and appreciates the information on the technology discussion part of bullying. Debbie Kulick thanks for a comprehensive discussion and she believes this will give East Stroudsburg the opportunity to participate in things that will really make a difference. Dr. Bonilla takes a second to recognize the administration for all the efforts and hard work that they have done to bring these programs to the district and community and for being proactive. Jason Gullstrand adds his thanks and it was great to get all the information out.

****Presentation is available by going onto esasd.net**

v. Future Professional Development - Erin Dreisbach - Restorative Practices/Reflections Rooms

Erin Dreisbach starts her presentation by sharing an update on the Reflections Room and Call Room. She shares that they have filled the reflection coach positions at both High School South and High School North and are very excited to have them. Ms. Dreisbach adds that these rooms are where the in school suspension rooms were and they are putting a spin on the traditional in school suspension. This entails the coach in that position being responsible for creating a classroom environment that is conducive to reflection and learning. The coach will also encourage the students to contemplate and gain insight into the behaviors through various strategies. Ms. Dreisbach shares that this Summer they are providing a training called Restorative Justice Conferencing which will provide fundamentals for facilitating a conference in response to the students' wrongdoings. This training also will help utilize skills to engage and create a deeper understanding to repair those relationships. Dr. Bonilla adds that she would like to speak about restorative practices as there is a lot of political debate around these practices and feels it is important for education and all the areas we have spoken about tonight. She adds that she would like this to be added to a future agenda.

****Presentation is available by going onto esasd.net**

vi. Resources for parents/guardians and students

Dr. Vitulli sums up the bullying presentation by sharing some resources that have been found to be useful. These include websites and phone numbers that parents/guardians and students can get to or call if they feel that they need help.

****Resources are available by going onto esasd.net**

c. Curriculum Specialist Update - Adam Coffman & Marisa Kehr

Dr. Vitulli introduces Adam Coffman and Marisa Kehr who will be giving an update on all that they have been working on. Dr. Coffman starts the presentation by sharing how they were able to update the curriculum on how it is viewed on the website as it was on moodle which is an older technology and a lot of the curriculum that was on moodle had ownership of individuals meaning if that individual left the curriculum was deleted. The steps that they took to fix this issue included making a shared Google Drive so now the district has the ownership of all the curriculum and worked on a new web page that will be more simple and easier for the user to follow. Dr. Coffman shares how they are revamping the curriculum on the webpage so parents/guardians can go on and be able to look at a quick synopsis on what their child is learning currently. Marisa Kehr shares that they have done a full research and analysis of the last 5 testing years and were able to track the scores for the district as this will be helpful when looking to further enhance all the courses as they become a priority to Act 158 which is a new requirement for PDE. She continues to share information on how they were able to see the data that was collected to see what their strengths and weaknesses are. Ms. Kehr adds that they are meeting with all the department chairs to assist and provide guidance and support throughout this process. Dr. Coffman shares information on academies and career concentrations and how they are working on bringing these into the next school year. Ms. Kehr shares the 3 academies to start within the schools are going to be Health Sciences, General Education which does include Special Education, and Secondary ED. Dr. Bonilla shares that she believes the work that they are doing is great and it will help inform what they need to really look at specifically to be able to make decisions including allocating and reallocating support as needed. Jason Gullstrand adds that the academies are a great idea and that it will be an advantage for our students to have. He also shares that he appreciates the curriculum being added online and believes it is a really important part of it as well. Debbie Kulick shares that she is encouraged to hear everything going on and adds that she would be happy to help

make connections in the Health Science areas where needed. Rebecca Bear adds that it is nice to see the progress of the curriculum and is excited to see the academies benefit the students now and for their futures.

**Presentation is available by contacting Adam Coffman & Maris Kehr or going onto esasd.net

d. Translation Services

Dr. Vitulli wanted to give a quick reminder to parents and caregivers that the district does have translation services both live and in person through an IU 20 program called TransPerfect. He adds that any administrator in our district can get activated quickly to a person live on the phone. Dr. Vitulli shares that we also provide translated documents if necessary. Dr. Bonilla shares that we have invested in this resource and we want to make sure that the families are receiving the information in the language that is understandable to them. She also adds thanks for bringing this up so families know that this is available to them.

**Information available by going onto esasd.net

e. YMCA Keystone Star Rating - Before and After Care

Dr. Vitulli shares that this program has been rated by the Department of Human Services 3 out of 4 stars including schools of JM Hill and ESE. He adds that this is based on their skills and programming. Dr. Bonilla adds that it is exciting to see the programs continuing to grow and providing the support that these programs are worthwhile and beneficial.

**Information available by going onto esasd.net

VI. 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.

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

- A. Elementary Library Furniture updates - \$143,385.61 ARP ESSER Learning Loss Set Aside Grant - PEMCO Elem. Library Furniture (VIII.a.)

RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE: Motion to move item A to the Finance Committee was made by Debbie Kulick and seconded by Jason Gullstrand. The motion was carried unanimously.

VIII. NEXT MEETING - April 12, 2023

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

IX. ADJOURNMENT: 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Devyn Kolcun