

**EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
EDUCATION PROGRAMS & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING**

**June 14, 2023**

**VIA Zoom**

**7:00 P.M.**

**Minutes**

- I. The Chairperson,** Dr. Damary Bonilla, called the Education Programs & Resources Committee meeting to order at 7:01 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, and Jason Gullstrand. Debbie Kulick was able to join at 7:40 p.m.
  
- III. School Personnel Present:** William Vitulli, William Riker, George Andrews, Gail Kulick, Mary Olzewski, Kristen Long, Lisa Vitulli, Brian Baddick, Heather Piperato, Trenee Lurry, Shae Jones
  
- IV. Community Members Present:**

**V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

**RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE:** Dr. Bonilla asked for a motion to approve the agenda for June 14, 2023, 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 April 12, 2023, meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

**RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE:** Motion was made by Jason Gullstrand and seconded by Rebecca Bear to move the July meeting from July 12, 2023, to July 11, 2023. The motion was carried unanimously.

**VI. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

**a. BE ALLiance Update - Trenee Lurry**

Trenee Lurry starts her update with the list of events and holidays that are celebrated in the month of June. These include: Pride Month, Caribbean American Heritage Month, Loving Day, Juneteenth, Eid'l Adha, and Flag Day. Rebecca Bear adds on Fathers Day celebrated on June 18. Dr. Bonilla shares that every month she likes to listen more as every month there is at least one that she did not know about and enjoys being able to share this information with everyone.

\*\*Presentation available by going onto [esasd.net](http://esasd.net)

## **b. Summer Reading Challenge - Gail Kulick**

Dr. Vitulli introduces Gail Kulick who will be going over the creative new way we are presenting the Summer Reading Challenge. Gail Kulick starts her presentation by going over what the Summer Reading Challenge is about and what program we are using to help students throughout the Summer months. Dr. Kulick continues to share some highlights on Amira and why it is beneficial for the students. Dr. Kulick provides information on how Amira works which includes students taking a pre assessment and then students are placed to choose stories based on their level. Teachers received Professional Development on Amira to increase their background knowledge and comfort level with the program. Dr. Kulick also added that Kelly Spielman who is the program coordinator provided caregiver training so they could also see how the program works and what it is about. Students will be able to sign on to this program from wherever they are, including if they are on vacation. Amira also gives badge levels to the students which will show where they are within the program. Dr. Kulick shares that the goal of this challenge is to increase student confidence as a reader, increase student enjoyment of reading, and increase student reading proficiency. Dr. Bonilla was happy we were able to address this before the end of the school year as there were some concerns with reading levels and being able to show what we are doing to provide tools to the students to help invest in them and their education. Jason Gullstrand adds that he is happy that Amira is an AI program. Mr. Gullstrand also would like to know if the program allows the student to pick a story based off of if they see something they would like to read or does the program automatically sort it out based on reading level. Dr. Kulick advises that the program does present them stories that are based solely on the level that the student is on. She also adds that once the child reads to the program and if there are any errors Amira will then stop and go over what the student had gotten wrong. Rebecca Bear would like to know if the program learns as the student is learning and if the stories gradually get harder as the students improve. Dr. Kulick advises that Amira will adjust as they continue based on what level the student is at. She also adds that Amira also does record the student so Ms. Spielman is able to go back and listen to the students to see how they are doing. Dr. Bonilla adds that this program can also make the reading fun as this can mirror video games for students to make them want to do it. Dr. Vitulli adds that he is looking forward to the program playing out as also it can be less intimidating for some students than reading in front of others.

\*\*Presentation available by going to [esasd.net](http://esasd.net)

## **c. Summer Movie Night - Lisa Vitulli**

Dr. Vitulli introduces Lisa Vitulli who is sharing information on this year's offerings for Summer Movie Night. Mrs. Vitulli starts her presentation saying that this is the second year that we are offering this program and hoping that this can continue going forward every year. She then shares that this year the movies will be on Monday nights and after each movie the children are able to pick a book through the ones provided through our Title I grant. The Title I grant also provides the funds for the cost of the movie theater which allows families to be able to enjoy going to see a movie without the financial burden. Mrs. Vitulli shares the movies that they will be having for the Summer which include, Minions, Puss in Boots, Night at the Museum, and Diary of a Wimpy Kid. This program also is partnering with the Summer Reading Challenge to provide vouchers for the kids to get a free snack pack which is a small popcorn and a drink. Mrs. Vitulli then shares the total number of people who have signed up already to participate in the movie nights. Dr. Bonilla thanks Lisa for the update on the movie nights. She shares that it is wonderful to engage with the families and is happy we are able to provide this event again. Rebecca Bear would like to know the max number of attendees and if the

google form gets closed out once they reach that max number. Mrs. Vitulli shares that she gets updated every time someone fills out the form so she is able to monitor it and turn it off once a max is reached. Jason Gullstrand adds that he loves this program and is glad to see the participation level of the program. He also adds that this brings the community together as a lot of kids aren't able to socialize outside of school as they live in different developments. Dr. Vitulli adds thanks and the students do get excited when they see their principals out at the movies and being able to get a book on top of that is great.

\*\*Presentation available by going to [esasd.net](http://esasd.net)

#### **d. Summer Parent Tips - Shae Jones**

Dr. Vitulli introduces Shae Jones who is going to present some tips that will help throughout the Summer for students. Shae Jones starts her presentation with the structure of their schedules throughout the Summer time the best the caregiver can. Ms. Jones also provides some activities that caregivers can provide for their children which include, Summer camps, swim lessons, reading programs, family game night, and family taco Tuesday. She adds to also make sure that the children are participating in the planning process so caregivers can also have ideas that the children would enjoy doing. Shae Jones also adds some free activities that happen within our area. Ms. Jones provides some resources that can be found on our district website under pupil services for mental health. Dr. Bonilla thanks Shae and Erin for putting this together as it is a good reminder to have for the Summer. She also adds being able to promote the activities within the community is nice for families to see as they may not know what is available to them. Debbie Kulick would like to thank Shae for having lists put together and that there is something for everyone. She adds that it is also nice to have the mental health resources that Ms. Jones provided and it is very important to have for children in the Summertime. Jason Gullstrand adds that these don't just benefit the student; they also will benefit the parent as well. He also adds that it is nice to see everything pointed out as many wouldn't even think about some of the items that were listed. Rebecca Bear shares that she loves everything that was added this year and being able to see all the new items that have been added and seeing the list growing yearly. Shae Jones provides information on PEEC that would be good with the North campus' as it is closer for them. Rebecca Bear adds SROSRC has their summer camp as well down at Dansbury Park and Stroudsburg High School.

\*\*Presentation available by going to [esasd.net](http://esasd.net)

#### **e. REVEAL Math Plan K-8 - Dr. Vitulli**

Dr. Vitulli begins to share the new math program that they are hoping to implement throughout the district. This is the same math program that is being provided for elementary level and looking to pull their products up to the middle school grades. REVEAL will now be piloted at the middle school level next year. This will provide the same format, company, resource, and professional development from grades K-8. The teachers have responded very well to this and have been looking for something like this. Dr. Vitulli adds that they are also looking through the HMH materials for middle school level as well as they have seen great strides with this in the elementary level. Dr. Vitulli thanks the committee for all their help with these efforts. Dr. Bonilla thanks Dr. Vitulli and it is good to see the different pieces moving throughout the district and how we can partner and support the work being done. Rebecca Bear thanks for sharing and is excited to see updates for middle school level for curriculum as well. Jason Gullstrand appreciates the effort working with the vendors and being able to see the continuity throughout. Debbie Kulick adds that it is really important being able to see the continuity and gives kudos to everyone for making this happen.

\*\*Presentation available by going to [esasd.net](http://esasd.net)

**VII. 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.

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

- A. Vista Higher Learning - ELL Resources - \$6,820.51 - Paid by Title Grant (VIII.a.)**
- B. ELL Raz - ELL Resources - \$7,730.94 (VIII.b.)**
- C. Bedford, Freeman & Worth - \$36,459.20 (Math Curriculum - 6 years - Calc AP) (VIII.c.)**
- D. SAVVAS - \$67,859.25 (Math Curriculum - 6 years - Stats/Trig) (VIII.d.)**
- E. TI-84 CE PLUS Calculators and chargers - \$56,821.64 (VIII.e.)**
- F. Calculator Cases - \$9,344.50 (VIII.f.)**
- G. Note - Reveal Math Savings Update (VIII.g.)**

**RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE:** Motion to move item a, b, c, d, e, f, and g to the Finance Committee and Board of Education was made by Jason Gullstrand and seconded by Rebecca Bear. The motion was carried unanimously.

**IX. NEXT MEETING - July 11, 2023**

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

**X. ADJOURNMENT: 8:15 pm**

Respectfully submitted,  
Devyn Kolcun