

**EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
EDUCATION PROGRAMS & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING
September 13, 2023
VIA Zoom
7:00 P.M.
Minutes**

- I. The Chairperson,** Dr. Damary Bonilla, called the Education Programs & Resources Committee meeting to order at 7:00 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 and Rebecca Bear. Debbie Kulick was able to join at a later time. Jason Gullstrand tuned into the YouTube live stream.
- III. School Personnel Present:** William Vitulli, Brian Baddick, Eric Forsyth, Matthew Sadowsky, Adam Coffman, Marisa Kehr, Trenee Lurry, Tabitha Bradley, Heather Piperato, Rebecca Lopez, Shahida Jones, Ann Bauer, Devyn Kolcun
- IV. Community Members Present:** None
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE: Dr. Bonilla asked for a motion to approve the agenda for September 13, 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 Debbie Kulick and Rebecca Bear seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE: Motion was made by Rebecca Bear and seconded by Debbie Kulick to approve the minutes for the August 9, 2023, meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

VI. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

a. BE ALLiance Update - Trenee Lurry

Trenee Lurry starts her update with recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month that carries into October along with Suicide Prevention Month. Mrs. Lurry goes on to list dates in September that are celebrated. These include: Labor Day, Patriot Day, International Day of Democracy, Rosh Hashanah, Mexican Independence Day, International Day of Peace, World Gratitude Day, Native American Day, and Yom Kippur. Trenee shares that BE ALLiance will have their first Coffee Chat of the year and the topic this month will be Diversifying your classroom library. Dr. Bonilla thanks Trenee for all of her updates. Dr. Bonilla shares information on the PA Latino Convention that is going on this month as well.

****Presentation made available by going on esasd.net**

b. Movie Night Update - Matt Sadowsky

Dr. Bonilla introduces Matt Sadowsky who will be sharing the details of our Summer Movie Nights that were held all Summer long. Mr. Sadowsky starts by thanking and applauding Pocono Cinema as they are extremely welcoming making it great to partner with their local business. Mr. Sadowsky goes over the process on how movie night works and how they chose the movies for the whole Summer. Matt continues to share that new to Summer Movie Nights this year is students got to utilize Amira throughout the Summer and the top 5 users each week for their school earned a coupon for a free snack pack for movie night. Mr. Sadowsky shares that this is funded by our Title I so we can provide resources to our families on ways to promote reading at home. At the conclusion of this event all children got to pick out a new book from a variety of choices. Dr. Bonilla thanks Mr. Sadowsky for bringing the update to the meeting. Dr. Bonilla was able to attend one of the events and it was great to be able to see the children enjoy themselves. Rebecca Bear adds thanks for the presentation and finds it inspiring to see the passion that Matt brings into the program. Mrs. Bear shares that she appreciates everyone also for showing up to the events so that students can see their teachers and principals outside of school.

****Presentation made available by going on [esasd.net](https://www.esasd.net)**

c. Curriculum Specialist - Adam Coffman & Marisa Kehr

Dr. Vitulli introduces Dr. Coffman and Marisa Kehr who are going to give a follow up on a presentation from earlier in the year. Dr. Coffman starts the presentation by thanking Dr. Vitulli for all his help throughout the way. He continues to share about evolving the curriculum into the 21st century and shares the ways that both him and Marisa helped develop this. Dr. Coffman shares that they had to go back and look at all the different curriculum to make sure it matched across the board. This included taking a look at the Keystone data from 2017-2022 to identify areas of proficiency and deficiency. The courses that Marisa and Adam worked on in 2023 were Biology, Algebra, and English which have all been revamped and more aligned with the Keystone tests. In 2023-2024 they will be working with more subjects to revamp their curriculum as well, these include the business department and the technology department. Adam and Marisa have created a living document that they are working on to help educators to propose modifications to their curriculum based on real world practice. Educators will have the opportunity to look over curriculum and decide if they would like to revamp their subject. They will go through a review process to make sure that the students are getting the best curriculum. If the curriculum isn't working out the way they thought they are able to go back and start the process over. Marisa Kehr shares information on the new teacher induction. Ms. Kehr shares that PDE has changed the way this is done, and they were able to revamp this program with said changes that PDE made. Ms. Kehr goes over the setup of this new induction process and also shares what the day of will also look like. Adam and Marisa then were able to get feedback from staff for the induction on what they think worked well and what can be worked on. Going forward Adam and Marisa are looking into a midyear induction for any late hires throughout the school year. Ms. Kehr shares information on career academies which will include specialized training in the specific career field that students select. Dr. Coffman shares information on the new shared google drive that they created. Marisa and Adam provide plans that they hope to achieve in the 23-24 school year. Dr. Bonilla would like to know how this is going to impact going forward with the curriculum. Dr. Bonilla would also like to know if we have a location where we will house all this information and for the google classroom. Marisa responds that everyone will be receiving the folder and google classroom to be able to see. Dr. Bonilla would like to see a connection with DEI and to add this into the new teacher induction. Dr. Bonilla added that we would like to see a little bit more of this going forward. Rebecca Bear would like to know if this is the first year for the new rewrite for the curriculum which Adam responds that this will be the first year

with it implemented. Ms. Bear would also like to know how all the rewrites tie into the pathways. Dr. Vitulli responds that health and science have been put behind the existing educational pathways. This will be starting next school year. The career concentrations will also begin 24-25 school year as well.

****Presentation made available by going to esasd.net**

d. New School Year Tips - Shae Jones

Shae Jones starts her presentation with tips and tricks for preparing students to return to school. Ms. Jones shares how students might feel about going back to school and addresses that parents and guardians should do their best to keep checking in with their children. Ms. Jones continues to show a morning routine that might help with going back to school, this includes, getting 8 hours of sleep, allowing enough time to get ready for the day, and eating a balanced breakfast at home or school. Shae then shares some after school routines that could help not only the student but the family as well. This includes, homework right away or taking a break and then doing homework, joining after school activities, having a snack to fuel the body, and to remember that everyone responds differently to different routines. Ms. Jones continues with ways to make the week go smoother and ways to also help with a bedtime routine. Shae Jones shares some support links that families can utilize within the district. Dr. Bonilla shares that consistency is what it takes to establish a good back to school routine. Debbie Kulick adds that this is very beneficial and a good reminder for the families for the household to get back into sync. Ms. Kulick thanks Shae for her presentation. Rebecca Bear shares that it is hard to work full time and also go to school so to have the routine in place and have the conversations with the students on how their days are going. Shae Jones adds that the check ins with the child are important so they know that they are cared about. Dr. Bonilla is happy we are having these conversations regularly and talking about mental health. Shae shares a quick update on what she has been working on which includes being able to work with elementary and secondary students. Ms. Jones shares that next month she will have more detailed information to share with everyone. Debbie Kulick thanks Shae for everything they are doing and working on.

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e. Communications Update - Eric Forsyth

Mr. Forsyth starts his update with student registration numbers and where our district lands with the number of students registered from 2016-2022. Eric shares ways that their team worked to help families get their children registered faster and earlier than waiting until the last minute. Mr. Forsyth adds thanks to Ann Bauer and her team on getting out as many registrations as they could before the Labor Day Holiday. Eric shares an update on the district having a lot of presence in the local media. He adds that this is a great outlet to let the public know what we are hiring for and transportation updates. One of the events that they were able to have was about back to school safety and they conducted this on television right in the morning and was available for everyone in North East Pennsylvania to view. Rebecca Lopez adds that there was also a press release put out with WBRE about the number of teachers being hired. This made it possible for other news outlets to then reach out and want to carry the same story. Mr. Forsyth and Ms. Lopez share two of the donations that they were able to have from Ertle Subaru and Spring Village that will help out our schools and students. Eric adds that the 12 plus program is going to be coming in the near future which allows students to go out and participate in work that they would like to do post high school and see the real life work that goes into those certain jobs. These included, food services, environmental services, and working at camelback. Rebecca Lopez shares information on Safety Town which is an event that will share bus safety and bus etiquette. This event is being held at Middle Smithfield 9/18-9/22. Ms. Lopez adds that this event is geared for grades K-2. Mr. Forsyth shares an update on our

website and what we should be seeing in the near future when you go onto esasd.net. The release of the website should be completed by June 2024 that will benefit the district. Dr. Bonilla is excited to be able to highlight the students and the work that they are putting in. She adds that she is appreciative for the communications update for breaking it down for the community. Rebecca Bear adds that she loves that we do this every month to communicate with the families. She adds that transportation has definitely gotten better this year already. Debbie Kulick shares that safety town is very exciting and that the EMS people are very excited to attend the event. Ms. Kulick shares that a lot of homeschooled students were also interested in attending the event as well. Mr. Forsyth adds that everyone is welcome.

****Presentation made available by going to 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. Zaner-Bloser 2nd Grade Materials - \$5,894.90 - Paid by C&I (VII.a.)

B. Edmentum - Reading Eggs - \$10,976.00 - Paid by C&I (VII.b.)

RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE: Motion to move item a and b to the Board of Education was made by Debbie Kulick and seconded by Rebecca Bear. The motion was carried unanimously.

IX. NEXT MEETING - October 11, 2023

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

X. ADJOURNMENT: 9:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Devyn Kolcun