

**EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
EDUCATION PROGRAMS & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING
November 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 7:06 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Dr. Vitulli called the roll.
- II. Board Committee Members Present:** Dr. Damary Bonilla, Rebecca Bear, Debbie Kulick, and Jason Gullstrand
- III. School Personnel Present:** Brian Baddick, Rebecca Lopez, Karen Peters, Heather Piperato, Sandra Hartman, Jenny Bogart, Richard Schlameuss, Trenee Lurry, Philip Lazowski
- IV. Community Members Present:** Fatima Donzo, Nikki Huggan, Caterina Campbell, Shanice Person-Correa, Keleisha Philip-Stringer
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE: Dr. Bonilla asked for a motion to approve the agenda for November 8, 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 Rebecca Bear and Jason Gullstrand seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE: Motion was made by Jason Gullstrand and seconded by Debbie Kulick to approve the minutes for the October 11, 2023, meeting. The motion was carried unanimously.

VI. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

a. BE ALLiance Update - Trenee Lurry

Trenee Lurry starts her update with days that we observe throughout the month of November. These include: National Native American Heritage Month, National American Indian and Alaskan Native Heritage Month, November 1 & 2 is the Day of the Dead, November 9th is World Freedom Day, November 11th is Veteran’s Day, November 13th is World Kindness Day, November 16th is the International Day for Tolerance, November 17th is International Students Day, November 20th is Transgender Day of Remembrance, and November 24th is Thanksgiving. Mrs. Lurry includes that November 20 and 21 will be the second staff training on culturally relevant and sustaining education competencies. Mrs. Lurry Concludes her update with the Coffee Chat being at the end of the month and the topic for the month is still to be determined.

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b. CIU20 Parent Team - Nikki Huggan and Caterina Campbell

Dr. Vitulli introduces Nikki Huggan and Caterina Campbell who will be discussing IEPs. Dr. Bonilla adds that she would like to add that they have been doing amazing work organizing the families for Colonial IU 20. She adds that they had an engagement session that they would have individuals from throughout the IU to be able to come and learn from other experiences and how to support their kids with any issues that they may have. Ms. Huggan starts the presentation that they have gone all over the state to go over the Binders. Ms. Huggan shares the team that works on the parent support team and shares that their goal is to ensure the children get the appropriate education they deserve, giving them the best opportunities for a successful future. Nikki also provides some of the ways they keep in touch and get information out. Ms. Huggan shares what exactly is in the IEP Binder and how they are organized. Ms. Campbell shares that the vision board that they have inside the Binder is available through Canva and the Get to Know Me section is to help the teachers, bus drivers, and staff to know the children that they have. Ms. Huggan shares what each tab in the IEP Binder has and shares visuals of what they look like inside. Dr. Bonilla thanks Nikki and Caterina for everything they do and for providing resources to families and educators. Jason Gullstrand adds that he loves the idea of the instructional layout for the family and the teachers. Mr. Gullstrand shares that being able to relax the stigma of having an IEP is important for bringing them together. Rebecca Bear shares that she loves that they have this program and thanks Nikki and Caterina for what they do. Debbie Kulick adds that she is hoping that the suggestion of the Educator ABCs be something that can be shared with parents globally. Ms. Kulick adds thanks for everything Nikki and Caterina are doing with this program.

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c. Featured Academic Clubs:

DECA - Jenny Bogart and Karen Peters

Dr. Vitulli introduces Jenny Bogart and Karen Peters who also had some students join to talk about clubs that they have at their schools, for example: DECA. Ms. Bogart starts the presentation with a background on what DECA actually is. She adds that DECA's mission statement is that it prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management. Ms. Bogart shares that we are the only school to have a chapter besides MCTI in our immediate area. Ms. Bogart introduces some students who are a part of DECA and will go over what DECA means to them and what they get out of being in the club. Vanessa who has been in DECA for two years starts off with what she likes most about being in DECA which is teaching students about business and how to communicate with others. Vanessa shares that she is Vice President for one of the clusters of DECA for the school. This cluster that they supervise is Hospitality and Tourism which involves interacting with the guests and trying to sell them items. She shares that this club has helped a lot after COVID in relearning how to interact with others instead of just being stuck at home. Vanessa introduces Krepa who also is involved in the DECA team. Krepa shares that this is also her second year in DECA and adds that it is a great club to bring everyone together to help where needed. She shares that she is part of the finance cluster of DECA where she got to learn a lot of finance and supply and demand. Ms. Bogart adds that alumni can still belong as members as well within DECA. Dr. Bonilla shares thanks to everyone and all the amazing work they are doing. She adds that she is proud to listen to the students' testimonials and being able to hear what they have to add. Debbie Kulick adds that DECA is a great club and very diversified. Ms. Kulick shares she would like to give credit to the advisor to make sure the club continues and continue to be successful. Jason Gullstrand adds being able to hear why DECA is a great program from other students allows those not in the club an opportunity to actually know what it is about. Mr. Gullstrand shares thanks to the advisors and students. Rebecca Bear shares that she is very proud for every student who participates in DECA.

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Girls Who Code - Sandra Hartman

Dr. Vitulli introduces Sandra Hartman who will be going over the relatively new club, Girls Who Code. Sandra Hartman starts her presentation with some information about herself and what she does within the school district. Ms. Hartman shares that over the Summer she was able to go to the Google Headquarters and meet Tarika Barrett who is the CEO of Girls Who Code. Ms. Hartman shares that Girls Who Code focuses on empowering girls, building confidence, and career opportunities, fostering creativity, and community and mentorship. Sandra Hartman shares a video that had gone viral and got awards for which included information about girls coding. Ms. Hartman also adds being able to highlight career opportunities for these girls who are not used to seeing women be in has been great to share within the club. She adds that only 19% of STEM careers out there are being filled by women with only 2% being women of color. Ms. Hartman would love to see closing the gap with that and this club helps the students be able to focus on helping them stay motivated enough to see themselves in those careers. She shares that this also gives girls the opportunity to be able to discuss all kinds of challenges that they face throughout. Dr. Bonilla shares that Sandra puts in the work to earn the credentials and certifications that will bring visibility and opportunities to the students. Rebecca Bear adds that she loves hearing about Girls Who Code and loves the idea of the club. Debbie Kulick shares she would like to see these presentations on the website so parents would be able to see what is being offered at their schools. Jason Gullstrand adds that he would also like to see all the programs getting out on the website as well and shares thanks to Ms. Hartman for the presentation.

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Robotics - Phil Lazowski

Dr. Vitulli introduces Phil Lazowski from JTL who will be sharing information about the Robotics Club. Mr. Lazowski starts his presentation with some information about himself and what he does within the district and club. Mr. Lazowski adds some of the tools that they have to work with within his classroom and the projects they work on. Mr. Lazowski shares a presentation through multiple years and competitions that they have competed in. He also shares other advisors who are involved in the STEM Technology clubs. Mr. Lazowski adds that for the 2023-2024 STEM Club, they will be having Mrs. Lazowski and Mr. Fekula join the team. He adds that they are also working with drones now within the club and going to be looking at competitions to attend. They also will be attending a battle bot competition shortly. Mr. Lazowski shares all the social media accounts that he has to keep up with what the club does and participates in. Dr. Bonilla shares thanks to Mr. Lazowski and loved being able to see all of the competitions throughout the year and what the club is going to do as well. Jason Gullstrand adds that one of the great things about teaching is being able to create a path for the students and seeing the instant feedback and former kids you had coming back to the district. He adds thanks to Mr. Lazowski for the program and presentation. Rebecca Bear shares that she loves that we have this within our district and being able to see a lot of the students go into STEM. Debbie Kulick adds that this is also something we should be promoting and educating the community on. She also adds that it would be awesome to get the kids certified for drone piloting.

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d. Communication Update - Rebecca Lopez

Dr. Bonilla introduces Rebecca Lopez for the communications update. Ms. Lopez starts the presentation by going over what Final Site provided with a rough draft of what the new website will look like. Ms. Lopez adds a visual of what the district homepage could look like possibly over the Summer. Rebecca Lopez shares that over the Summer the board approved the purchase of billboards throughout the area to promote hiring and registration and that another idea that they are looking into doing is wrapping the

maintenance vehicles with hiring information and registering information instead of doing the billboards. This will provide full visibility when they are driving the vehicles around the area and parked in certain areas. Ms. Lopez provides a sample of what the vehicles would look like with the wrapping. Dr. Bonilla shares that she likes the look of the website and might make it easier on the eye as well. She also adds that she likes the idea of wrapping the vehicles as this is something that will grab her attention. Rebecca Bear adds thanks to Ms. Lopez for sharing all the information and also likes the wrapping of the vehicles. Jason Gullstrand shares being able to see the difference of the website it looks fresher than what is currently presented. He adds that the wrapping is also something that will be able to get out to the community better than the billboards. Debbie Kulick adds thanks to Ms. Lopez and looks forward to seeing the continuation of the website and the wrapping vehicles.

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e. Recognition of Dr. Bonilla’s Contributions to EPR - Dr. Vitulli

Dr. Vitulli would like to take a minute to recognize Dr. Bonilla for her exemplary leadership and outstanding contributions to our district as the chair of this committee. He shares that the district has benefited greatly from Dr. Bonilla over the years. Dr. Vitulli presents a certificate of appreciation to Dr. Bonilla for all the work she has done. Dr. Bonilla thanks and sends appreciation for recognizing and providing the certificate. She adds being able to create a platform being able for everyone to come and give themselves a pat on the back or express what everyone is working on throughout the district.

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

There are no questions or comments from the Board Committee Members.

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 THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

- A. Learning A-Z (Raz-Plus) - Renewal for use with Elementary ELA Curriculum - \$8,424.00 - Paid by C&I. (VII.a.)
- B. 3P Learning (Math Seeds) - K-1 Math Renewal for all schools - \$13,751.25 - Paid by C&I. (VII.b.)
- C. HMH - Middle School Curriculum - 6-Year Agreement - \$573,844.39 - Paid by C&I. (VII.c.)
- D. McGraw Hill - Reveal Math K-5 - Six (6) Year Agreement - \$755,550.56 - Paid by C&I. (VII.d.)
- E. McGraw Hill - Reveal Math 6-8 - Six (6) Year Agreement - \$189,493.20 - Paid by C&I. (VII.e.)

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

X. NEXT MEETING - No Meeting in December

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT: 8:51 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Devyn Kolcun