

**EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION
EDUCATION PROGRAMS & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING
March 25, 2024
Administration Center
and Via Zoom
5:30 P.M.
Minutes**

- I. The Chairperson,** Ann Catrillo, called the Education Programs & Resources Committee meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Devyn Kolcun called the roll.
- II. Board Committee Members Present:** Ann Catrillo, Jason Gullstrand, and Rebecca Bear was available to join virtually.
- III. School Personnel Present:** Brian Baddick, Heather Piperato, Tabitha Bradley, Suzanne Ludwig, Stephanie Clark, Gail Kulick, Scott Hnasko, Melissa Jennings, Matthew Sadowsky, Mary Olszewski, Fabiola Souffrant, Michelle Siptroth, Eric Forsyth, Gloria Schulte, Amy Polmounter, Jessica Reese, Kim Borden, Kate Krammes, George Andrews
- IV. Community Members Present:** N/A
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE: Ann Catrillo asked for a motion to approve the agenda for March 25, 2024, 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: A motion was made by Jason Gullstrand and seconded by Rebecca Bear to approve the minutes for the February 15, 2024, meeting. Ann Catrillo amends the motion to have professional staff discussion indicate that the comments are within the minutes. The motion was carried unanimously.

VI. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

a. BE ALLiance Update - Trenee Lurry

Trenee Lurry starts her presentation by sharing the days that are celebrated in March. These include Women’s History Month which is a month-long celebration of women’s contributions to history, culture, and society, and Gender Equality Month which brings awareness to gender biases and challenges. She shares that it is also developmental disabilities and brain injury awareness month and that is to recognize the millions of adults and children living with a form of a permanent brain injury related to a disability. Ms. Lurry continues to add that March 8th was International Women’s Day, March 10-April 9 is Ramadan, which is Islam’s sacred month and during this time Muslims abstain from eating and drinking from dawn to dusk. The first day of this holiday starts at sundown on March 10th. She shares that March 20th is International Day for the elimination of racial discrimination, which is a day that encourages everyone to come together to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination. March 25th is Holy which is a Hindu holiday that celebrates the onset of Spring and the triumph of good over evil. March 31st is Easter. Ms. Lurry shares

that in April, there will be 2 coffee chats since there was a break in March. She adds that cultural competency training continues throughout May as they have been training twice a month and going over different cultural competencies as a refresher for staff.

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b. Science Day - Amy Polmounter

Amy Polmounter starts the presentation by sharing that Paul Kernan was going to also be presenting today as he was the staff member who made this his brainchild and that him and Brian Baddick had dreams of doing a science fair with our elementary schools as part of his gifted program. 2 years later it was able to come to what will now be known as the First Annual Science Day event at East Stroudsburg Area School District. Ms. Polmounter takes a second to recognize and thank the entire science department who got together and were able to come up with amazing labs to introduce the elementary students into the science field. She also adds thanks to Brian Baddick and Pupil Services who funded the event. Ms. Polmounter introduces Carl and Allison who are the student leaders that led the event. Allison and Carl share a video from the welcome of Science Day. They share some of the stations that they had throughout the school. Allison shares that all the stations are available on YouTube to watch to see what the elementary kids were able to do. Carl shares that all the elementary students were able to visit 3 stations each. The students were then sent the YouTube videos, so they were able to see the other stations that they were not able to see. Mrs. Catrillo was able to attend this event and shares how well done this event was planned and how much she enjoyed seeing the enthusiasm throughout the students and seeing the love of science. She shares congratulations to both Allison and Carl for everything they have done. Ms. Polmounter shares that they then got sent thank you cards from the elementary schools. Dr. Piperato asks when this event would be available for the North School to have. Ms. Polmounter shares that they are going to start that collaboration this year and the two buildings are working together for the current Spring project.

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c. Communications Update - Eric Forsyth

Mr. Forsyth starts his presentation and update with a discussion about the website and the languages that are going to be used and available on the website. He adds that they looked at the data to see which languages are going to be showcased based on what they see on the student database. Mr. Forsyth shares a small game of Family Feud that goes over 6 of the most popular languages throughout the school district. This data comes from when students register, they are given a form to fill out what is their home language. He shares that the web developers said that they are able to have the top languages from the district and each year they will adjust them as necessary. Mrs. Catrillo asks if the Spanish language is from the direct language from Spain. Mr. Forsyth shares that they take it from the dialect from Spain Spanish. He then adds that they attended the PDE Conference, and they had a section on PIMS where they were able to play against other districts and then PDE themselves and our district team won against all. Mr. Forsyth adds that Annamarie Bauer and Carissa Johnson were nominated for the Data Governance Excellence Award in the state of Pennsylvania. Mr. Forsyth shares that we are going into a system called Parchment which means all of the alumni will be able to send all transcripts from North and South High School out to various entities (colleges, jobs, etc.) This program is online and free of charge. Mr. Gullstrand asks if they will disable the google function of all other languages on the website. Mr. Forsyth shares that this will not disable that function and the website will have that on the chrome browser as well. Ms. Bear asks if it will be easy to access for families to select the language. Mr. Forsyth adds that it will be.

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d. Shout Outs

Dr. Bradley starts the shout outs with sharing that she was able to attend the musical Let's Eat which Jennifer Scott and Laura Tassinari being the two staff members who ran the musical. They did a daytime presentation and nighttime so that way families could join as well. Dr. Bradley also shares thanks to Mr. Sadowsky for having staff in the building who wanted to do this event. Dr. Bradley shares thanks to Mr. Kers at Smithfield who had a book tasting with Margie Wagner, Stacy Bresence, Jennifer Agolino, Marjory Gullstrand, and Catherine Schoroth. The high school representatives brought over books for the elementary students who were excited to look into books that they have never read before. Mrs. Catrillo shares she attended the Wax Museum at Middle Smithfield. She shares that the students dressed as the character that they chose to be and stood there like in a Wax Museum then when you would press the student's button, they would give all the information they had on their character of choice. She shares once you walked around and got to see everyone individually, they all came to the front and did a Hero Day to which they shared different Heroes throughout. Ms. Catrillo also shares that it was very awarding seeing students that she had taught in school grow up to be where they are today. Mr. Baddick recognizes Dr. Bradley who has been working hard to get the Therapy Dog throughout the district, including Toby who recently graduated and had a ceremony at Middle Smithfield. He also gives shout out to Shae Jones who has been with the district for 6 years and helped immensely with mental health awareness throughout the district.

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e. Presentation on the current status of Elementary school curriculum - Tabitha Bradley

Dr. Bradley starts her presentation on the elementary curriculum with the curriculum indexes that are all on the website able to view for families. All these curriculum indexes are housed in a shared drive, meaning they are able to be edited and updated as needed and able to show on the website as well. Dr. Bradley gives an example on how they will be able to update the docs as needed. Mrs. Catrillo asks if once a change is made is there a history that shows what was changed. Dr. Bradley shares that yes with being in google drive you are able to see what was edited and changed. Dr. Bradley adds that the curriculum handbooks are also on the website that will show the specific topics that they are learning if they would like to see those instead of the in-depth curriculum that in being taught. She adds that the only standard that is new to elementary schools is the Career Education and Work standard which our 339 Plan has been updated since this came out. Dr. Bradley shares some curriculum work that has been done throughout the elementary levels which do look different then the secondary level as the department chairs do every single building. Dr. Bradley shares the revision status document that houses the programs and resources that are being used in the elementary level and when they will be up for renewal. Dr. Bradley shares the status on IXL and how it is being used in the classroom which includes: Individualized action plans, teacher-assigned skills, group jams, leaderboards, and virtual math awards and certificates. She shares that the coaches would be willing to show how it is being utilized within the classroom. Mrs. Catrillo asks that this will not be utilized for ELA in elementary. Dr. Bradley shares that it will only be math and in secondary will be using both ELA and Math. Dr. Piperato shares that teachers indicated at both levels that they would like to use IXL. Mrs. Catrillo asks that since they have done so well on the Science tests that it has been moved to fifth grade. She continues to add that will the new assessment be much different than what is currently being given. Dr. Bradley shares that currently we are unsure as we have not seen any samples as of yet. Dr. Piperato adds that the only thing they have been told is that 25% is going to be life science, 25% is going to be physical science, 25% is going to be Earth and Space science, and 25% is going to be science and technology engineering. She adds that there will then be 3 point constructed responses for students to do. Mrs. Catrillo asks if it is all levels. Dr. Piperato shares that it will be all levels. A teacher from the audience wanted to add that he is very proud of the elementary schools and would be glad to talk to anyone about IXL if they have any questions on how it works. Mrs. Catrillo adds that one of the main reasons she requests teachers to come when going over the curriculum at all levels as it is important

to hear information that they feel works and what doesn't work. She adds that she wants to make sure they as a board is fully informed with what the students are learning. Melissa Jennings shares anyone is welcome to Bushkill to see how IXL is run and what they do within the classroom.

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VII. PROFESSIONAL STAFF PARTICIPATION - Limited to Items of Discussion

Questions and comments are within the minutes above.

VIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – LIMITED TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There are no questions or comments from the public.

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

- a. Cengage - Precalculus books (160) - \$30,404 paid for by C&I (VIII.a.)
- b. McGraw Hill - Algebra I & Algebra II books (600) - \$181,936.00 paid for by C&I (VIII.b.)
- c. Savvas/Pearson - Geometry books (600) - \$114,727.30 paid for by C&I (VIII.c.)

RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE: Motion to move a, b, and c to the Finance Committee was made by Jason Gullstrand and seconded by Rebecca Bear. The motion was carried unanimously.

X. NEXT MEETING - May 22, 2024

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT: 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Devyn Kolcun