

**EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
EDUCATION PROGRAMS & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING  
January 17, 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 5:33 p.m. and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Dr. Vitulli called the roll.
- II. Board Committee Members Present:** Ann Catrillo, Rebecca Bear, Debbie Kulick, and Jason Gullstrand
- III. School Personnel Present:** William Vitulli, Brian Baddick, Tabitha Bradley, Heather Piperato, Gloria Schute, Amberly Warner, Jim Ware, Maria DeJesus-Perez, Trenee Lurry, Carissa Johnson, Rebecca Lopez, Eric Forsyth, Adam Coffman, Marisa Kehr, Amanda Signorello, Olivia Lesoine, Kate Krammes, Lois Groff, Regina Brotherton, Catherine Schroth, Carla Mathiesen, Shae Jones, Lori Soskil
- 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 January 17, 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 Rebecca Bear and Debbie Kulick seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously, 4-0.

**RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE:** Motion was made by Rebecca Bear and seconded by Jason Gullstrand to approve the minutes for the November 8, 2023, meeting. The motion was carried unanimously, 4-0.

**VI. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

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

Trenee Lurry started by addressing the Board members on the panel and by giving an update for the Be Alliance that evening. She did an update for the months of December and January. December 3<sup>rd</sup> was World Aids Day as well for International Day of Persons with Disabilities. December 10<sup>th</sup> was International Human Rights Day; December 16<sup>th</sup> thought the 24<sup>th</sup> was Posada's Journey. The journey Mary and Joseph made from Nazareth to Bethlehem. December 25<sup>th</sup> was Christmas and also Hanukkah was from December 7<sup>th</sup> through December 15<sup>th</sup>, Kwanzaa was December 26<sup>th</sup> through January 1<sup>st</sup>. For the month of January, we have Poverty and Awareness in America and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. January 1<sup>st</sup> New Year's Day, January 4<sup>th</sup> World Burial Day, January 6<sup>th</sup> is the Three Kings Day, January 13<sup>th</sup> is Korean American Day, January 4<sup>th</sup>, the 14<sup>th</sup> is the Old Orthodox New Year, and January 15<sup>th</sup> is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 16<sup>th</sup> was National Day of Racial Healing. January 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> was Tubet Shavat, which is the Jewish New Year for trees and January 27<sup>th</sup> was International Havoc Remembrance Day. Our Coffee Chat was held on December 20<sup>th</sup>, and it was hosted by Sandra Hartman and Lehman computer science teacher. Equity fellow who discussed the various Heritage Months and how to incorporate them within our classrooms and implementation. Ideas were provided

and they will repeat this chat in March to offer the opportunity to engage again. January coffee chat will be Racial Healing. Our chat will be on engaging and courageous conversations and dialogue around the day, and we will share the resources with participants to further or deepen their knowledge and understanding of equity issues and increasing belonging within our school community. Resources will be shared for the day of Racial Healing with staff. These resources were cultivated by the Be Alliance Event Planning Committee and came largely from the Kellogg Foundation website. Trenee suggests that you check out this website that has videos, events and resources from the day and different events from around the country. Ms. Catrillo asks about the chat time during the school day, and it is available to the public or just to teachers which Ms. Lurry's response was that it is only available for the teachers and that she tries to rotate every half hour to an hour so at least someone will be able to participate during the day. Ms. Catrillo also mentioned after they move on to the Communication Department update, the focus is basically on High School Curriculum. Ms. Catrillo said being new to her position and knowing that education programs and resources are really the heart of the committee. Ms. Catrillo met with Dr. Vitulli back in December to focus on the Curriculum aspects of the schools, the programs and any resources because the education and our students is why we are here. So, this month is High School, next month will be Middle School then the following month will be Elementary School. Also, it is the first time that a Teacher Advisory Group has been put together for this committee. Then Ms. Catrillo proceeded to thank the Administrators and presenters who do all the work behind the scenes.

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

**b. Communications Update - Eric Forsyth, Rebecca Lopez, Carissa Johnson**

Eric Forsyth started by introducing himself and addressing the Board members and the larger audience we received that evening. He started by giving a shout out to part of the creative team and the folks that were there with him this evening. Mr. Forsyth mentioned that he has served as the voice of the district for a few decades. It's gotten a little more fun in recent years. Partly because of the ingenuity of these 2 ladies behind me, who thought it would be a great idea to get other people involved, because, namely, they didn't want to hear me at 5 o'clock in the morning, and one of the ideas was, let's get a contest spun up to get others involved, which Carissa suggested. Rebecca was very quick to get that published in a way that people responded and just by way of how that's affecting the community and giving something positive for others to look forward to. An average Facebook post or social media reach for our district on anything that's of interest to the community usually goes out to about 15,000 different individuals with reactions. When our students from East Stroudsburg Elementary with Dr. Louis, had their video hit this past week. Within the first 3 days they reached 65,000 and really, that's not us. We always say we're not the show here. Our job is to simply communicate the successes of the district and the good things that are happening. So, we're going to give you a few updates this evening on things that will be taking place, and then we'll talk about some things quickly that will be coming in the future and then find out how we can be of further assistance and benefit to the Educational Programs and Resources Committee. He introduced his Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Rebecca Lopez who gave a really quick overview of where we are headed with the progress on the website. Mrs. Lopez approached the Board committee and the audience by saying it's a little different having an audience in person. Mrs. Lopez walked us through her power point slides showing the changes and progress they are making with our website by modernizing some areas which they hope to be up and running by July. Then Mr. Forsyth jumped in to clarify some of the questions Ms. Catrillo had regarding who will be in charge of updating any event the buildings may have which Mrs. Lopez made the clarification that any events that have been submitted they will check to ensure that they are current and approved. Also, Mrs. Lopez added that if you go into your personal phone and check our website it looks easier and much cleaner to navigate. Mr. Forsyth also mentioned that Carissa Johnson is currently working with App store and Google store to develop an app to connect everything together. Carissa Johnson walked us through her presentation about our organization, structure and how we utilize technology that is available to us and many other districts.

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

**c. Curriculum Highlights - Dr. Bradley and Dr. Piperato**

Dr. Bradley started by addressing the Board committee by announcing that two of our instructional coaches Sue Ludwig and Tina Falbo were invited to be presenters at the National Ed Web which it's based on foundational reading skills K through 2 Bridging Research and Practice. Also, we accepted an opportunity with Johns Hopkins University to be a research partner with them and their Ed research at the Elementary level. Tasha Nisnick from Middle Smithfield School will be our Liaison for this project. Dr. Piperato approached the Board to discuss testing, which she serves as one of our District Assessments coordinators for our Keystone exams. We received at High School North an unexpected visitor from PDE but even though there were no recommendations they loved what we have done. She thanks the teams at High School North and High School South and Administrators for all the hard work.

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

**d. Curriculum and Instruction Process - Dr. Vitulli and Dr. Piperato**

Dr. Vitulli addressed the Board committee by thanking all the staff that showed up to the Board meeting this evening. He started by saying that the Curriculum department is no different when it comes to the requirement of systems and procedures and good documentation and ownership of responsibilities. He started his presentation by announcing that Dr. Heather Piperato, Adam Coffman and Marisa Kehr will be participating with him in the presentation. He talked about what he did in the last 3 years with the help of some colleagues. He discussed the Historical Context which he went over one by one. Then Dr. Piperato followed up with Goals and Values going over one by one to inform everyone of what the Curriculum Department uses as a curriculum cycle. Then Dr. Vitulli took us through the factors that influenced this renewal cycle. Then Dr. Piperato talked about the next slide which discussed the Curriculum Purchasing Cycle and where it stands right now. Ms. Catrillo had some concerns about some discrepancy regarding renewing digital material for another six years when we have books that haven't been looked at since 2005 and 2006. Then Dr. Piperato summed it up with the slides to move forward as soon as possible with the presentation. Dr. Vitulli explains simple genetic roles that are implemented as part of the Curriculum Department to get things moving forward and approved. Then Mr. Adam Coffman went over some templates for teacher support which the Curriculum Department put a professional and collaborative template for the district to use. Then Marisa Kehr went over in a detailed summary what the students will be doing per unit and the 2 types of standards by the State that they may be eligible for. Mr. Jason Gullstrand had a quick question regarding each of the assessments which he couldn't see a link created yet to which Dr. Vitulli responded that yes, they have been created by the teachers.

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**e. Current Status of HS Curriculum by Subject Area - Dr. Piperato**

Dr. Vitulli continued with his presentation regarding the ongoing Curriculum work for our High Schools that include Math 9-12 electives, Wood Technology 1, Science post Biology and Health 11. Mrs. Catrillo addresses having some of the American Literature History books applied into our High Schools curriculum moving forward for the benefit of our students. Mrs. Catrillo likes what we are doing with our Curriculum for our Elementary Schools and are also carrying on with our High Schools too. Dr. Heather Piperato went over HS Math slides to show the Current HS Curriculum Work. Mr. Adam Coffman went over the current Science HS Curriculum, and he's been working with teachers to come up with a plan and a timeline to develop and create solutions for the HS Curriculum. Ms. Marissa Kehr went over more in depth regarding the implementation and development to help our teachers. Dr. Heather Piperato went over POS Parity and current status of HS North and HS South by subject and when it was revised and when materials were purchased.

**f. List of Programs and Resources Use in the High Schools - Dr. Vitulli**

Dr. Vitulli started by saying that there are several different levels we have purchased for the district which are as follows Screencastify, Mote Edpuzzle and Nearpod some of the resources that are used for grades 2 through 12. In the area of benchmark and remediation we have COMMONLIT and IXL. The other resources are Get More Math, Mastering Biology, MyMathLab, BFW and CONNECT-ED. DR. Vitulli also mentioned the things that were purchased like Unity Game Design Engine, Century 21 Accounting and CDEHS Digital Learning Platform, Sight Reading Factory, Smartmusic, Finale, Muscores.

**g. The Academies - Dr. Vitulli**

Dr. Vitulli went ahead with his presentation by giving an example for the First 2 Years in the Career Academies for our Freshman and Sophomore students to help them understand which courses they need to take to prepare them for their Senior year and for their future ahead. Ms. Catrillo gave some thoughts regarding the implementation of the courses and the overall design and research we have done because this is the future of our students. Also, she wanted to know who will implement and track those academies. She would like the communications between departments and counselors to track all of that because that could have a ripple effect. She mentioned that the vision is phenomenal, but she is more concerned about the implementation. Mrs. Rebecca Bear asked what are the requirements to stay in the Academies so our students understand what they need to do to stay in the Academies. Mr. Jason Gullstrand asked if we have looked into a credit program or courses, and he suggested that they check with ESU and Northampton College to see what classes they recommend.

**h. Program of Studies Discussion - Dr. Vitulli and Dr. Piperato**

Dr. Vitulli started by saying that they are making some minor adjustments to the enrollment process but nothing too much to discuss at this moment.

**VII. Professional Staff Participation - Limited to Items of Discussion**

There are no questions or comments from the Professional Staff.

**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**

**X. NEXT MEETING - February 15, 2024**

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| <b>RECOMMENDATION BY THE COMMITTEE:</b> Motion to adjourn was made by Rebecca Bear and seconded by Jason Gullstrand. The motion was carried unanimously. |
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**XI. ADJOURNMENT: 7:52 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Myrian Cole