

SALISBURY TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2008

The Salisbury Township School District Curriculum Subcommittee met on Monday, March 31, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Administration Building, 1140 Salisbury Road, Allentown, PA.

Board Members Present: Mr. Frankenfield, Mr. Giordano, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Ziegler

Administrators Present: Ms. Aponick, Dr. Beauchemin, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Hafner,
Ms. Perron-Jones, Ms. Morningstar, Mrs. Pflingstler, Dr. Wright,
Mr. Ziegenfuss

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Miller at 7:05 p.m.

2. **eSTRATEGIC PLAN - UPDATE**

Dr. Beauchemin explained the shift that has occurred in the Strategic Planning process. The state has developed an eStrategic Planning technology tool that integrates (6) reports into a 6-year Strategic Plan which include: Academic Standards and Assessment Report, Professional Education Report, Teacher Induction Report, Educational Technology Report, Special Education Report, and Student Services Report. The Strategic Plan will provide a comprehensive plan for supporting strong achievement results for all students. The reports are based on the articulated district vision, mission and belief statements and on the shared goals. The statements and goals reflect 21st century thinking, learning, and skills.

The development of the Strategic Plan is a process which has included all stakeholder groups through regularly scheduled meetings and through collaborative dialogue using a shared wiki. The eStrategic Planning tool provides for the ongoing monitoring and evaluating of the plan. The Strategic Plan components will be shared with the Salisbury staff and the greater community through faculty meetings, district communications, community newsletters, district website, and the *Salisbury Press*.

Mrs. Ziegler and Mr. Giordano are members of the Strategic Plan Steering Committee. Mrs. Ziegler commented that students were a valuable part of the planning process, and she noted the students were very willing to share their ideas and to make suggestions. Mrs. Ziegler stated the committee members were very intentional in the inclusion of each word in the vision, mission and belief statements. Mr. Giordano acknowledged the tremendous energy and involvement of the committee members and their ownership of

the process. Mrs. Ziegler commented that the group discussion facilitators made sure to include all voices in the discussion. Mrs. Piperato stated appreciation for including student voices, and she commented that the process served as a model for resolving conflict and developing consensus.

Dr. Beauchemin shared the proposed vision, mission and belief statements. Mr. Giordano suggested including the word “learn” in the mission statement. The suggestion will be shared with the Steering Committee at the April meeting.

Dr. Beauchemin presented the (10) goal areas of the Strategic Plan. The first five goals are state goals which are required by PDE if a district is in school improvement. Although Salisbury is not in school improvement, Dr. Beauchemin explained the district has been focused on these goals for the past few years, and we will continue to address improvement in these areas. The state goals include:

- Reading Proficiency
- Math Proficiency
- Student Participation in State Assessments
- Student Attendance
- Student Graduation Rate

Additionally, the planning process has identified five district goal areas which include:

- Academic Proficiency – District students will be proficient in core subject areas as measured by state and local assessments leading to successful transitions from elementary level to middle school to high school and beyond.
- Highly Qualified and Effective Teachers – All students will learn from highly qualified and effective teachers, and all instructional staff will be supported by a professional development plan.
- Technology and Learning – The district will implement the Technology and Learning Implementation Plan and the five goal areas of Access, Technology and Learning, Professional Development, Information Literacy, and Assessment and Evaluation.
- Student Services Plan – All students will have access to developmentally appropriate services in the areas of guidance counseling, nursing, wellness, and psychological assessments.
- High School Graduation Plan – All students will graduate from high school with an articulated plan for life-long learning and career development.

Mrs. Miller asked for an explanation of Open Source software which was referenced in the Educational Technology Report. Mr. Ziegenfuss explained the software is developed by a community of people, and there is generally no fee for the software usage. We will investigate usage of Open Source software as needed and appropriate. Mrs. Miller commented that in the past each school building has developed its own theme and mission. She inquired from the principals how each school would align with the district Strategic Plan. Ms. Morningstar stated there is alignment between the AFG (Accreditation for Growth) goals and the district goals. Mrs. Pfingstler stated that she reflected on each aspect of the vision, mission and belief statements as they were being

developed to ensure alignment with elementary level beliefs and goals. Mr. Cassidy stated agreement for the alignment between building and district statements and goals.

Mr. Giordano asked if there were any restrictions in changing the Strategic Plan document over time. Dr. Beauchemin explained the Strategic Plan is a living document, and it can be modified based on data which indicates a need to change or alter the plan.

Mrs. Miller asked how the recent decision about renovations to buildings and improvement to the stadium field fits into the Strategic Plan. There was some discussion as to whether or not the Strategic Plan should include the facilities study and extra-curricular activities. The administration stated they will have further discussion on this topic.

Mrs. Perron-Jones and Ms. Aponick asked for a school board representative to the Special Education committee as it prepares its report for the Strategic Plan. Mrs. Ziegler agreed to participate.

Dr. Beauchemin stated the Special Education Report will be presented at the April Curriculum & Technology Committee Meeting. It must be submitted to the state by May 31, 2008. The rest of the Strategic Plan is due to the state by September 30, 2008.

3. **DISTRICT CALENDAR – 2008-2009**

Dr. Beauchemin presented the district calendar for 2008-2009. The calendar represents (180) student days and (9) professional development days for a total of (189) teacher days. Teachers who are new to the district in 2008-2009 are required to attend three additional days for orientation and induction.

The district will hold orientations for students in grades K, 1, 6, and 10 on Tuesday, September 2, 2008. All students will report on Wednesday, September 3, 2008. The calendar provides for (5) snow days. If additional days are needed, the district will utilize Friday, February 13, 2009 and/or Thursday, April 9, 2009.

The district calendar will be placed on the school board agenda for approval on April 16, 2008.

4. **DISTRICT ACT 80 SCHEDULE – 2008-2009**

Dr. Beauchemin presented the district Act 80 early dismissal schedule. The schedule is similar to last year in the number of early dismissal days per building. The majority of early dismissal dates are for parent/teacher conferences at the elementary level, and department goals and graduation projects at the middle and high school levels.

5. **DISTRICT CURRICULUM & TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE – 2008-2009**

Dr. Beauchemin presented the District Curriculum & Technology Subcommittee Meeting schedule for 2008-2009. All meetings will take place at the Administration Building unless agenda items warrant a change in location to a school building.

6. **OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Giordano inquired about the Algebra/Geometry I, II, III courses and their effect on student achievement. Ms. Morningstar explained next year will be the first class to have the opportunity to go through the three year cycle. We will share data in the fall after receiving the PSSA math results from spring 2008 and the following year at the completion of the three year cycle.

Mrs. Ziegler inquired about the graduation project completion rate for the senior class. Mrs. Piperato stated only (5) students have not completed their project to date.

Mrs. Miller stated she has asked Dr. Beauchemin to provide a year-end update in May on the curriculum changes that have been implemented this year such as elementary report cards and Grade 12 English course for non-proficient students. Dr. Beauchemin stated the principals will provide course registration numbers for the new electives that have been approved for implementation in 2008-2009. If any board members would like updated information on any other curriculum changes, please forward your requests to Dr. Beauchemin for presentation at the May Curriculum & Technology Committee Meeting.

7. **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

None

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

9. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 28, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Administration Building, 1140 Salisbury Road, Allentown, PA 18103.