

SALISBURY TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 2007

The Salisbury Township School District Curriculum Subcommittee met on Monday, January 29, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Administration Building, 1140 Salisbury Road, Allentown, PA.

Board Members Present: Mrs. Feinberg, Mr. Giordano, Mrs. Heffelfinger,
Mrs. Miller, Mr. Pauloski, Mr. Reinsmith, Mrs. Ziegler

Administrators Present: Dr. Beauchemin, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Hume, Mrs. Perron-Jones,
Mrs. Pfingstler, Mrs. Samide, Dr. Wright, Mr. Ziegenfuss

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting from January 8, 2007 was made and approved as submitted.

3. **DISTRICT EMOTIONAL SUPPORT CLASSES - UPDATE**

Mrs. Perron-Jones presented information on the current status of the District Emotional Support Classes at the middle and high schools. Mrs. Perron-Jones compared last year's projection numbers with the current roster, and she explained the collateral benefits of the program at both schools. These additional benefits include: sharing students between learning support and emotional support; additional students receiving counseling with the Therapeutic Case Manager (TCM) as part of an IEP; connecting families with community agencies; incorporating the TCM into the Pupil Personnel Committee; and greater facilitation of placement options.

Mrs. Perron-Jones explained the psychologists' time commitment with the Emotional Support classes. Both district psychologists spend 1 – 1 ½ days counseling students in these classes as well as providing testing services, consulting with teachers and psychiatrists, participating in pupil personnel committees, and providing crisis management as needed.

Mrs. Perron-Jones explained that the next steps for these programs should be discussion of role clarification; improving communication; sharing experiences across buildings; expanding parent outreach efforts, and exploring summer services for students.

Mrs. Miller inquired about the common planning time for the team. Mrs. Perron-Jones explained that the teachers have time at the beginning and end of each school day. She also stated that the teams really enjoy the integration of their classes into each school. Dr. Beauchemin credited Mr. Hume with moving the Emotional Support class to a visible location within the high school to further integrate the class into the school. Mr. Cassidy stated that the program runs very smoothly in the middle school. Mr. Giordano commented that he is pleased to hear of the integration between learning support and emotional support. Mrs. Miller commended Mrs. Perron-Jones for the success of the district take-over of classes.

4. **ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY GUIDANCE - UPDATE**

Elementary Update: Mrs. Pfingstler and Mrs. Samide provided information as to the elementary guidance program under the direction of the new elementary guidance counselor. The principals highlighted several positive ramifications of having an elementary guidance counselor:

- Counseling referral process implemented – Approximately 90 students are being seen on a regular basis at the elementary schools;
- Second Mile Mentoring Program implemented in collaboration with Cedar Crest and Muhlenberg College students;
- Leading Edge Karate Child Safety Program provided;
- Involvement in the Pupil Personnel Committee at each elementary school;
- Involvement in the coordination of standardized tests at both schools;
- Looking into providing the Prosper Program (currently at the middle school) to fifth grade students at each elementary building.

Dr. Beauchemin commented that the elementary guidance position was added in response to very detailed and concerning statistics regarding our elementary students. She asked the principals if they were experiencing a decline in these issues with having an elementary guidance counselor. The principals responded affirmatively, and they indicated that the guidance counselor's ability to be proactive and responsive has resulted in providing students with needed services. Mrs. Miller congratulated the principals for the effectiveness of the counselor's integration into the school.

Middle & High Schools Update: Mr. Cassidy explained that he is meeting regularly with the secondary guidance counselors to proactively develop department goals and work towards the seamless integration of secondary counseling services. Mr. Cassidy shared the department goals with the board. In addition, Mr. Cassidy and Mr. Hume explained the improvements in the structure and content of guidance classes (grades 6-9), guidance prevention programs and counseling services (6-12), career counseling (6-12), and communication. Mr. Cassidy explained that efforts are being made to ensure that all

students utilize Career Cruising and that the information is accessed by counselors during their meetings with students.

Both middle and high schools have developed parent distribution lists in order to communicate regularly with families. Mr. Reinsmith asked about communication with students and parents concerning the college application process. Mr. Hume explained that the timeline is on the high school website. There will be continued efforts by the guidance department to address student counseling and career guidance to ensure that the process is seamless from grades 6 – 12 and that each student's portfolio is up-to-date and accessed by counselors when providing guidance.

Mrs. Miller stated that she is the board representative to the Accreditation Growth Process (AFG) at the high school. She explained that both guidance services and career exploration is a goal of the process. Mrs. Ziegler noted the improvement in the communication between the high school and LCTI students. She explained that the LCTI students feel more included in the life of the school. Mrs. Ziegler also acknowledged the increased communications from the middle school. Mr. Cassidy stated that he will have the high school counselors add the school board members to the high school distribution list. Dr. Wright thanked Mr. Cassidy for his leadership in coordinating and improving the seamless delivery of guidance services and programs.

5. **TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION**

Mr. Ziegenfuss provided an update on the District Technology Committee meetings. The committee has completed the writing of vision, mission, and belief statements. At the upcoming February 6 meeting, goals will be developed by the committee.

Mr. Ziegenfuss has been meeting with school faculties to explain the work of the committee and to encourage staff participation in building level technology committees.

Mr. Ziegenfuss shared a recent article in *Discovery Education* which was co-authored by two high school teachers, Mrs. Stangherlin and Ms. Brinson, regarding the Integrated Project. He explained that it is exciting to have Salisbury highlighted in a national publication. Mr. Ziegenfuss stated that the Integrated Projects will be streamed and archived this year so that the student projects will be available for public viewing.

Mr. Ziegenfuss explained that Olympus offered digital camera packages to all local schools that participated in training at the business site. Each of our schools was the beneficiary of the equipment. Additionally, Olympus sponsored a state-wide competition for creative projects involving the integration of technology with instruction. One winner from each intermediate unit was chosen and received sophisticated digital camera equipment. Mrs. Stangherlin was the award recipient for Lehigh and Carbon counties. Her student project is entitled, *Telling Our Stories*. Mr. Pauloski commended Mrs. Stangherlin's interest and growth in technology.

Mr. Ziegenfuss introduced Mrs. Kasaczun, elementary learning support teacher, and explained how she had invited him into her classroom to observe her students using

technology to enhance their learning. With Mrs. Kasaczun's demonstrated readiness for technology integration, her classroom was provided with a Smart Board. Mrs. Kasaczun explained to the board how she is integrating the Smart Board throughout her instructional day and the positive impact it has had on student engagement and thinking. Mr. Ziegenfuss stated that we will continue to develop and foster teacher readiness for technology integration. Mr. Ziegenfuss plans a presentation about instructional use of a Smart Board in a future meeting. Mr. Reinsmith suggested possibly video-taping the use of the Smart Board within classroom instruction so board members could see this technology in action. Mrs. Kasaczun stated confidentiality issues which must be considered before any video-taping can occur; however, it may be possible to provide audio recording during instructional use of the Smart Board.

6. **CURRICULUM REVIEW PROCESS - UPDATE**

Dr. Beauchemin explained that the Health and Physical Education Department and Art and Music Department are in Phase One of the Curriculum Review Process. The department members have developed student and parent surveys for gathering ideas and interests. Both departments are in the midst of visiting other districts with noteworthy programs. This information will be shared with a larger stakeholder group during Phase Two of the process. Dr. Beauchemin explained that board members will be asked to consider joining one of the department committees during the Phase Two process in Spring 2007.

The FCS/Business/Technology Department is continuing to develop the curriculum for the new integrated *Life Smarts* class which will be a full year required tenth grade class. The curriculum will include Life Management A, Computer Applications, and Small Business. The emphasis will be on career exploration, personal finance, and entrepreneurship within a social and collaborative 21st century learning environment.

The English/Reading Department is continuing in their efforts to develop a remediation program for students who have not achieved the level of proficient as determined by the Grade 8 PSSA Reading test. The district is also investigating academic literacy frameworks that will improve literacy and thinking for all students. Information will be shared as we move forward in this endeavor.

7. **TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION – GRADE 9**

Mr. Cassidy explained that the current Technology Design-Manufacturing and Prototyping class has been a full year elective course for ninth grade students. Mr. Cassidy made the recommendation that the course become a semester course. This would allow more students to access this elective as well as allow students to choose an additional semester elective in ninth grade. Mr. Giordano asked for clarification about the middle school Technology Education program and how it is offered to students. Mr. Cassidy explained that all students in grades 6, 7, and 8 take Technology Education for one marking period each year. Ninth grade students have the option of selecting the Technology Design course as an elective. When offered as a full year course,

approximately 15 students can access the course. With the new semester recommendation, 30 students would have access to the course, and these students would also have the option to choose another semester elective in ninth grade. Mrs. Miller asked if there are any objections to approving the recommendation. All board members agreed to the recommendation.

8. **OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Giordano inquired as to the Curriculum Review Process for 2007-2008. Dr. Beauchemin explained that World Languages and Elementary Language Arts will begin Phase I next year.

Mrs. Feinberg asked about the recent decision to limit student attendance at the FBLA state competition. Dr. Wright explained the reasoning behind the decision. She approached the decision with regards to the FBLA budget as well as the equity considerations guiding the district field trip policy. Mrs. Feinberg recommended that we develop district guidelines for determining the number of students the district will sponsor to attend state level competitions. In addition, Mrs. Feinberg asked about the possibility of an organization such as FBLA soliciting funds from local businesses should a similar situation occur in the future. Mr. Giordano stated this situation raises the question of whether or not to allocate contingency money for activities and athletics. Mrs. Miller suggested that the topic be brought up at a future Student Activities meeting. The board agreed to support this recommendation.

9. **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Mrs. Julie Bolton, representing the Salisbury chapter of the PAGE organization, addressed the recent resignation of the part time gifted support teacher at Western Elementary School. She stated that the resignation exemplifies the on-going problem of consistency in the elementary gifted program. She urged the board to consider the possibilities of hiring a full time teacher for the program so that there can be programmatic consistency.

Mrs. Molly Kenyon asked if any district personnel have approached Lehigh Valley Hospital for assist with district funding or providing of services. Mr. Giordano explained that the district has a current financial agreement with LVH which expires in 2 years. He further explained that Dr. Wright has begun a dialogue with hospital officials about providing in-kind services to the district. LVH did partner with the school district in providing a health fair to district employees in January. Mr. Giordano explained that the district will continue to actively explore the possibilities with LVH.

Mrs. Julie Bolton thanked the school board and the district schools for their participation in the *Read-On Program*.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

11. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 26, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Administration Building, 1140 Salisbury Road, Allentown, PA 18103.