

DRAFT PENDING COMMITTEE APPROVAL  
BOARD EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
March 09, 2016

Tredyffrin/Easttown Administrative Offices  
1:00 p.m.

**Attending all or part of the meeting:**

**Board Committee Members:** Scott Dorsey (Chair), Roberta Hotinski, Katharine Murphy

**Other Board Members:** Michele Burger

**TE School District Representatives:** Wendy Towle (Administrative Liaison), Nancy Adams, Mark Cataldi, Patrick Gately, Richard Gusick, Mike Szymendera, Andrea Chipeco, Art McDonnell

**Community Members:** Amy Alvarez, Doug Anestad, Ray Clarke, Jamie Lynch, Cinda Marturano, Sam Elsen, Karen Cruickshank, Michael Wiemuth

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

**Public Comment:**

Jamie Lynch commented on **PSSA Remediation.**

Doug Anestad commented on **PSSA Remediation.**

Cinda Marturano commented on **PSSA Remediation.**

Sam Elsen commented on **PSSA Remediation.**

Karen Cruickshank commented on **PSSA Remediation.**

Ray Clarke commented on **PSSA Remediation.**

Ray Clarke commented on **Grade 6 Math.**

Ray Clarke commented on **Special Education Update.**

Ray Clarke commented on **Enrollment/Staffing/Facilities Report.**

Doug Anestad commented on **Technology Update.**

Ray Clarke commented on **Technology Update.**

**Approval of Minutes:**

The February 10, 2016 were approved.

## **Committee Discussion and Recommendations:**

The Committee discussed the report on **PSSA Remediation** from Mr. Cataldi, Director of Assessment and Accountability. Previously, in keeping with Chapter 4 of PA School Code, the District provided additional learning opportunities for elementary and middle school students who did not achieve proficiency (advanced or proficient) on the PSSA English Language Arts or Math. Mr. Cataldi explained the format and structure of the additional learning opportunities at the elementary and middle schools. Revisions to Chapter 4 have indicated providing additional learning opportunities is no longer a specific requirement for PA school districts. Instead, districts must afford students “instructional opportunities to develop knowledge and skills necessary to achieve the proficient level.” No requirement exists regarding how these instructional opportunities must be structured. The Committee also received information about the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) decision in the summer of 2015 to change the cut scores for proficiency on the PSSA English Language Arts and Math, and the impact the decision had District-wide on the number of students considered non-proficient on both tests. Mr. Cataldi addressed several questions from Committee and community members. The Committee recommended, moving forward, the District provide opt-in additional learning opportunities for elementary and middle school students who do not achieve proficiency on the PSSA English Language Arts and/or math, as the state has removed the mandate for these additional learning opportunities. As has always been the practice, student needs in language arts and math will also continue to be addressed through core classroom instruction.

The Committee discussed the report on **Grade 6 Math** from Mrs. Adams, Supervisor of Math. The current Grade 6 Math courses are aligned to the new PA Core Standards through teacher-developed supplements to the current materials. As such, text resources are needed for full curricular alignment. A review of the *Math in Focus* implementation in grades K-5 was provided for the Committee. Mrs. Adams addressed several questions from Committee and community members. The Committee recommended that the District move forward with the adoption of the *Math in Focus* text for 6<sup>th</sup> Grade on-level and above-level Math for the 2016-2017 school year.

The Committee received a **Special Education Update** from Dr. Andrea Chipego, Director of Individualized Student Services. Dr. Chipego updated the Committee on the continuum of student supports, the special education process, the number of District students receiving special education in various categories, mandated District-wide student support services, staff caseload limits, projected staffing and facility needs, special education trends, and Student Services points of pride, among other topics. Dr. Chipego addressed several questions from Committee and community members.

The Committee received an **Enrollment/Staffing/Facilities Report** from Dr. Towle, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Staff Development, and Planning. Dr. Towle addressed several questions from Committee and community members. The Committee discussed the available classroom space at each Elementary, Middle School and the High School, based on projected enrollment numbers for the 2016-2017 school year. The Committee discussed options for meeting the needs of students if enrollment numbers grow larger than predicted by the Demographer’s Report and the District’s study of enrollment trends. The Committee was informed that the present enrollment projections at Devon Elementary School indicate that classroom space currently used for science instruction may have to be converted into core instruction classroom space for the 2016-2017 school year. The Committee recommended that the District continue to monitor projected enrollment numbers for the 2016-2017 school year to inform regular Committee Reports moving forward.

Under the agenda topic of “other”, the Committee received a **Technology Update** from Dr. Szymendera, Director of Instructional Technology. Exploration of access to technology is a District goal for this school year. Following the direction the Committee provided in the fall, prior to the February Technology Update, Dr. Szymendera met with groups of parents, teachers, and administrators throughout the District to gather information regarding student access to technology. Findings of this investigation were shared with the Committee in February and an option for increased student access utilizing a 1:1 model in grades 7-12 was outlined. During fall meetings with Dr. Szymendera, teachers, students and parents cited increased opportunities for flexibility, differentiation, collaboration, and authentic inquiry based learning as outcomes of increased student access to technology. Research supporting innovative teaching and learning through the use of technology was also shared with the Committee in February. As part of the the March update, Dr. Szymendera addressed several remaining questions from Committee and community members. The Committee supported the 1:1 initiative for its educational value and recommended the proposed initiative be moved forward for full Board discussion and consideration.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Next meeting: **April 13, 2016**