

DRAFT PENDING COMMITTEE APPROVAL  
BOARD EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES  
April 13, 2016

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

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

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

**Other Board Members:** Michele Burger, Virginia Lastner, Edward Sweeney

**TE School District Representatives:** Wendy Towle (Administrative Liaison), Mark Cataldi, Andrea Chipeco, Patrick Gately, Richard Gusick, Nicole Roy, Mike Szymendera, Oscar Torres

**Community Members:** Amy Alvarez, Doug Anestad, Kris Graham, Barb Jackson, Jamie Lynch, Cinda Marturano, Sam Elsen, Sarah Culbert, Kelly Walker, Coleen Hillman, Tracey Sloan

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m.

**Public Comment:**

Doug Anestad commented on computer science in the District curriculum.

Barb Jackson commented on the Achievement Center at Conestoga High School.

Doug Anestad commented on **ERB/Keystone/PSAT Report**.

Jamie Lynch commented on **ERB/Keystone/PSAT Report**.

Cinda Marturano commented on **ERB/Keystone/PSAT Report**.

Sam Elsen commented on **ERB/Keystone/PSAT Report**.

Coleen Hillman commented on **ERB/Keystone/PSAT Report**.

Tracey Sloan commented on **ERB/Keystone/PSAT Report**.

Doug Anestad commented on **Minding Your Mind/Mental Health/Resiliency/MIT Report**.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The March 9, 2016 were approved.

## **Committee Discussion and Recommendations:**

The Committee discussed the **ERB/Keystone/PSAT Report**. Mr. Cataldi, Director of Assessment and Accountability, shared the results of the District's fall administration of the Educational Records Bureau (ERB) Comprehensive Testing Program for grades 2, 3, 4, 6 and 8, as well as a sample 'Individual Narrative Report' from ERB. Although the ERB is an optional assessment, it provides information that teachers and administrators use for a variety of instructional decisions. Mr. Cataldi also shared the results of the District administration of the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) on October 14, 2015, as well as the PSAT calendar for the fall of 2016. The College Board introduced the new and redesigned "SAT Suite of Assessments" in the fall of 2015, with the PSAT 8/9 and PSAT 10 only offered on a Wednesday in October rather than on a Saturday as had been offered in previous years. As a result of this new administration calendar, the Committee had previously recommended the District pay for and administer the PSAT to students in grades 9, 10, and 11, with opt-out available for any students who did not wish to participate. Mr. Cataldi explained that complete data on the fall 2015 results is not yet available. In particular, the College Board has decided not to release the test questions for interpretation of student scores, as they have in the past. Also, Mr. Cataldi explained that the PSAT 8/9 will again not be offered on a Saturday in the fall of 2016. Finally, Mr. Cataldi shared the results of the January, 2016 administration of the Keystone Exams. Mr. Cataldi addressed several questions from Committee and community members. The Committee recommended the District continue to administer the ERB Comprehensive Testing Program. The Committee also recommended the District once again pay for and administer the PSAT on a school day in the fall of 2016 and continue to gather data and results to inform the educational value of the school-day administration. Finally, the Committee recommended the District continue to offer the optional summer Keystone remediation program at Conestoga High School, as the Keystone Exams remain a graduation requirement for students in the current 9<sup>th</sup> grade and below (class of 2019 and below).

The Committee received a report on **Minding Your Mind/Mental Health/Resiliency/MIT** from Dr. Andrea Chipeco, Director of Individualized Students Services, Dr. Oscar Torres, Curriculum and Staff Development Supervisor, and Ms. Nicole Roy, Supervisor of Special Education. Dr. Chipeco presented an update on the District's incorporation of the Signs of Suicide (SOS) Prevention Program in grades 5-9 and the Minding Your Mind educational opportunities for students in grades 10-12. Both programs encourage help-seeking behaviors in students. Dr. Torres and Ms. Roy presented an update on the District Resiliency Initiative, specifically the resiliency lessons developed and to be delivered for students in grades 5-8 at both middle schools this spring, as well as an update on plans to further develop middle school and high school lessons in preparation for the 2016-2017 school year. Dr. Chipeco also presented an update on the Multi-tiered Intervention Team (MIT) Implementation for the 2015-2016 school year. Dr. Chipeco presented information on program goals, MIT supports provided for students, MIT points of pride, and the number of students receiving MIT services at the middle schools and the high school.

Under the agenda topic of "other," the Committee received a **Technology Update** from Dr. Szymendera, Director of Instructional Technology. Dr. Szymendera explained the District Technology Committee evaluated the gradebook feature of Schoology and found it was robust enough to replace Pinnacle, the District's current gradebook management system for students in grades 5-12. Since Pinnacle is no longer supported by its creator company and the District is only under a one-year contract to use Pinnacle, the move to Schoology's gradebook management system would result in a savings to the District. Grades 5 and 6 would need to be added as Schoology users, which would result in a revision to the Schoology contract, without penalty. The Committee recommended that the District move forward with the use of Schoology's

gradebook feature for students in grades 5-12 for the 2015-2016 school year, and that teachers receive training on the gradebook feature.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Next meeting: **May 11, 2016**