

DRAFT PENDING COMMITTEE APPROVAL
BOARD EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
May 11, 2016

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

Attending all or part of the meeting:

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

Other Board Members: Edward Sweeney

TE School District Representatives: Wendy Towle (Administrative Liaison), Mark Cataldi, Patrick Gately, Richard Gusick, Amy Meisinger, Anthony DiLella

Community Members: Amy Alvarez, Sam Elsen, Jerry Henige, Jamie Lynch, Cinda Marturano, Jennifer Marsala

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m.

Public Comment:

Jerry Henige commented on world languages and technology in the middle schools.
Cinda Marturano commented on world languages in the elementary and middle schools and textbooks in the middle schools.

Cinda Marturano commented on the **Strategic Planning Update**.
Jamie Lynch commented on the **Strategic Planning Update**.

Cinda Marturano commented on the **ESSA Update**.
Sam Elsen commented on the **ESSA Update**.
Jamie Lynch commented on the **ESSA Update**.

Sam Elsen commented on the **PSAT Update**.
Jerry Henige commented on the **PSAT Update**.
Jennifer Marsala commented on the **PSAT Update**.

Approval of Minutes:

The April 13, 2016 were approved.

Committee Discussion and Recommendations:

The Committee received an update on **Strategic Planning** 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 District's progress related to different aspects of the Strategic Plan, including resiliency and mindfulness training for staff and students; developing students' capacity for innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit; advancing student learning through technology; and professional development for teachers related to the art of teaching.

The Committee received an update on the **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)** from Dr. Towle, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Staff Development, and Planning. Dr. Towle shared the background of the ESSA. She explained that the new framework goes into effect for the 2017-2018 school year, but that the District's No Child Left Behind (NCLB) waiver expires July 31, 2016 and the District has not received information from the Pennsylvania Department of Education regarding how to handle that gap in time. Dr. Towle shared the changes to accountability under the ESSA, as well as how the ESSA impacts standards and state-administered assessments like the PSSAs and Keystone Exams. Dr. Towle addressed several questions from Committee and community members. The Committee discussed the recent changes at the federal level, as well as possibilities for change at the state level. The Committee discussed the educational impact of the prior reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (NCLB), as well as the possible impact of the ESSA on the students and teachers of the District. The Committee recommended the District craft a resolution to share community sentiment and suggestions to legislators regarding the Pennsylvania Department of Education's interpretation and implementation of the ESSA.

Under the agenda topic of "other," the Committee received a **PSAT Update** from Dr. Meisinger, Principal of Conestoga High school, and Mr. DiLella, Assistant Principal at Conestoga High School. Dr. Meisinger and Mr. DiLella reminded the Committee that the College Board introduced the new and redesigned "SAT Suite of Assessments" in the fall of 2015, with the new PSAT 8/9 and redesigned PSAT/NMSQT 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. Dr. Meisinger and Mr. DiLella explained the impact of a weekday administration of the PSAT on the academic program at Conestoga High school. In particular, they shared the academic impact related to seniors potentially having to miss a half or a full instructional day, the academic impact of students who use extended time missing classes, and the facility space concerns due to an increasing number of small group College Board-designated accommodations for students. Dr. Meisinger and Mr. DiLella answered several questions from Committee and community members. The Committee recommended the District move forward with the weekday administration of the PSAT 8/9, since that is the only option offered by the College Board, but that the PSAT/NMSQT be administered on Saturdays as had been the District's previous practice. The Committee also recommended the District once again pay for students to take only the weekday administration of the PSAT 8/9 and that the District continue to gather data and results to inform the educational value of the school-day administration.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

Next meeting: **September, 2016**