

TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of the  
Education Committee Meeting  
March 23, 2011 - 5:00 p.m.  
Board Room, Trinity Hall

**Members of the Committee: Dennis McWreath (Chairperson); John Keisling; Dorothy Tecklenburg and JoAnn Standish**

Committee members present: Dennis McWreath, John Keisling and JoAnn Standish

Board member present: Ronald Harton

Others present: Paul Kasunich, Superintendent; Yvonne Beverina Weaver, Assistant Superintendent; Don Snoke, High School Principal; Jack Minnick, Elementary Principal; and Judy Walz, recording secretary.

Community members present were: Debbie Lukas, Amwell Township; Tracy Krenzelak, North Franklin Township; Jennifer Morgan, South Strabane Township; Kelly Secreti, North Franklin Township; Penny Caleffe, Canton Township; Kelly Proudfit, South Strabane Township; Mike Williamson, South Strabane Township

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mr. McWreath followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Terra Nova Report – Mr. Minnick

Mr. Minnick provided a summary of evaluation programs in kindergarten through second grade. He noted his recommendation that the DIAL 4 assessment replace the current Brigance screening and that the KBIT 2 test be implemented to evaluate for gifted or learning disabilities. He also recommended that the Terra Nova test currently given in grade 2 be eliminated and that 4SIGHT, which is currently used in grades 3, 4 and 5, be administered in second grade as well. He noted that DIBELS had been implemented in kindergarten through second grades and that in-service for the teachers was continuing. Discussion was held regarding the lack of standardized testing in the primary grades and the possibility of administering the CSI portion of the Terra Nova only.

Curriculum Changes – Mrs. Weaver

Mrs. Weaver discussed the adjustment to the curriculum cycle due to the delay in the adoption of an elementary reading series until next school year. She noted that the Social Studies curriculum was on track in the elementary, but that secondary had been delayed while the district explored the possibility of the use of e-books. Mrs. Weaver reviewed budgeted expenditures for books and periodicals for the entire district.

#### Increasing Graduation Requirements to 23-24 Credits – Mr. Snoke

Mr. Snoke reported on the possibility of additional graduation requirements in Math and Science. He noted that a fourth year of math could be added without a potential increase in staffing, but noted concerns. He also discussed the possible addition of a fourth year of science, noting that the addition would require additional staffing. He recommended that if the additional requirements were implemented they should be phased in starting in the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Mr. Snoke noted his biggest concern was for students who attended the WACTC programs. Dr. Kasunich indicated his support of the additional requirements.

#### Redistricting Report Showing Building Utilization and Class Size – Mrs. Weaver

Mrs. Weaver reviewed information regarding the possible redistricting of 47 students from Trinity West to Trinity North in order to alleviate overcrowding at Trinity West. She noted that the report did not consider any possible retentions. She reviewed two options, the first maintaining current staffing and the second reducing staffing by 7. Dr. Kasunich indicated that the second option would be considered due to financial constraints. He indicated that families affected by the possible change would be notified by letter and phone call and that he would report to the Board in April.

Mike Williamson, South Strabane Township, commented on the possible redistricting, noting that the overcrowding would occur at Trinity North rather than West.

Debbie Lukas, Amwell Township, suggested that the district consider one major move, rather than discussing the topic every year.

Jennifer Morgan, South Strabane Township, indicated that the second option allowed for overcrowded classrooms and questioned the benefit to having available rooms.

Kelly Proudfit, South Strabane Township, questioned why reconfiguration of the entire district was no longer being considered.

Diane Ecker, South Strabane Township, noted her support of maintaining the current configuration of schools.

Mr. Keisling indicated that he did not feel that class sizes in the second option were unreasonable and that, as the district's enrollment was dropping, staffing, reconfiguration and number of schools would need to be reviewed.

#### Additional Special Classes – Mrs. Weaver

Mrs. Weaver reported that the addition of physical education classes in the elementary buildings would require additional staff. She noted a report submitted to the Board in 2008 which indicated that two 30-minute classes per week could be provided in the elementary buildings by taking time from other classes and restructuring the program across the district. Discussion was also held regarding the possibility of excusing student athletes from physical education classes at the high school.

Penny Caleffe, Canton Township, commented that student athletes were generally the students who actively participated in phys ed classes and that, in her opinion, not all sports programs should qualify as replacement for a phys ed class. She noted her support of additional phys ed classes at the elementary level.

Full Day Kindergarten – Mr. Keisling

Mr. Keisling noted that the district should review offering the option for half-day kindergarten, and that not all “high performing” schools offered a full day kindergarten program.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.