

TRINITY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Minutes of the Education Committee Meeting
Board Room, Trinity Hall
10:00 a.m. - April 13, 2011

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

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

Board member present: Ronald Harton

Others present: Paul Kasunich, Superintendent; Dr. Betty Sue Schaughency, University of Pittsburgh; William M, Kunert and Debbie Pricener, YMCA; and Judy Walz, recording secretary.

Community members present were: Debbie Lukas, Amwell Township; John Artuso, South Strabane Township; Brenda Williamson, South Strabane Township.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. McWreath, Chairperson, at 10:00 a.m., followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Discussion was held regarding a report from Mr. Minnick concerning the cost of administering the InView portion of the Terra Nova. It was the consensus of the committee that the InView portion, or other comparable test, should be used.

Dr. Kasunich reported on proposed curriculum changes, noting that the administration is recommending that the purchase of elementary social studies materials be delayed. He indicated that the high school is piloting e-books in two courses and that Middle School social studies texts would be purchased. It was noted that the middle school curriculum should be updated over the summer. Mr. McWreath noted that both elementary Language Arts and Social Studies have now been delayed.

Dr. Kasunich addressed the issue of redistricting students from Trinity West to Trinity North. He reviewed a report showing current utilization of the elementary buildings as well as current and projected enrollments and staffing.

Mrs. Williamson noted that caution should be used regarding class sizes at Trinity North.

Discussion was held regarding physical education classes, K through 12. Dr. Kasunich reported that allowing student athletes to opt out of phys ed class was discouraged. He suggested that graduation requirements for phys ed be met in three years rather than four. Also discussed was

the possible addition of phys ed classes in the elementary buildings and how the addition would impact other classes.

Increasing graduation requirements in Math and Science was discussed. Dr. Kasunich suggested that requiring an on-line course in Math may be an option to fulfill additional requirements. He noted that curriculum needs to be tied to standards. Mr. McWreath requested that a concrete report be provided at the next meeting regarding the addition of courses/credits.

Dr. Betty Sue Schaugency noted that she had visited all of the schools and that Trinity had a phenomenal school system. She indicated, however, that the teachers have not aligned curriculum to standards, but once that happens test results will improve.

Dr. Kasunich updated the committee on the TMS "Schools to Watch" application. He noted that the middle school had not been selected this year, but that Mr. Keruskin will submit the application again for the 2011-2012 school year.

Mr. William M, Kunert and Ms. Debbie Pricener, addressed the committee regarding programs offered through the YMCA. The committee requested that a needs assessment be done to determine community interest in any of the programs.

Mr. Keisling noted that the elimination of the full day kindergarten would alleviate some budget constraints for the district.

Next Meeting: April 27, 5:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.