



CURRICULUM and TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 1, 2014

Seymour Middle School

7:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kristen Harmeling
Fred Stanek
Ed Strumello
Yashu Putorti

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Christine Syriac, Superintendent
Nancy Snopkowski, Associate Superintendent
Leslie Sojka, CLS Assistant Principal
Pat Boyle, Board Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Nancy Snopkowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance

II. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

A. Mrs. Syriac called for nominations for the chairperson of the Nutrition, Health, and Safety Committee meeting. Mr. Stanek nominated Mr. Strumello to continue as the Chairman of the Curriculum Committee. Mrs. Syriac called for further nominations two more times, hearing none she asked for a vote

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Ms. Harmeling) to appoint Mr. Strumello as chairperson of the Curriculum & Technology Committee

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Harmeling, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

Mr. Strumello will remain the Chairman of the Curriculum Committee.

III. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Mathematical Curriculum- grades K-5

Mrs. Snopkowski gave a brief overview of the Math Curriculum writing process. One teacher from each elementary school per grade with the exception of three fourth grade teachers spent the year working with Mrs. Snopkowski, Mrs. Feige, Ms. Sojka, as well as Holly Cyr, Math Consultant, writing the curriculum and piloting the Math Expression books. When the Elementary Math Curriculum Committee felt the curriculum was ready, a meeting of the District Math Curriculum Committee was called to review and offer suggestions. The District Math Curriculum Committee was comprised of elementary, middle school, high school administrators and teachers. Suggestions and revisions were made to the curriculum. When the District Committee met for the second time, they were impressed with the revisions and felt the curriculum was ready to be brought to the BOE. Mrs. Snopkowski asked if there any questions about the curriculum. Mr. Stanek asked if the teachers from both schools will be allowed to meet and collaborate regarding the new math curriculum. Mrs. Snopkowski stated that they would be meeting next year on some early release days. Mr. Strumello asked about some of the drastic changes in the ordering of the skills from grade levels, specifically "estimation". Mrs. Sojka replied that the order was now done not only based on the CCSS but on what was developmentally appropriate; estimation and elapsed time being two skills which are developmentally difficult for a lot of students to grasp.

MOTION: (Mrs. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Stanek) to recommend to the full Board the approval of the new K-5 Math Curriculum.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Harmeling, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

B. Math Expressions Textbook Request

Mr. Strumello was very pleased with the Textbook Request form as it was properly done and completed in its entirety. Mrs. Harmeling has a student in one of the piloting classes and said she felt it was a solid program and that teachers were sharing the program across grade levels. She especially liked the parent letters that are being sent home. Ms. Sojka pointed out that parent letters were bilingual. Mrs. Snopkowski said on this subject it was important to note that the textbook came with ELL leveled materials. Mrs. Snopkowski also pointed out the textbook would be for grades 1-5 as Kindergarten felt it moved too fast and was too difficult for kindergarten students. Kindergarten will have other resources at their disposal. Mr. Strumello was concerned with the readability being too high for some students. He didn't want the fact that some students have difficulty reading impacting their ability to solve math equations. Mrs. Snopkowski pointed out that the books came with differentiated instruction for those students needing additional help. The committee moved on to the cost proposal. The materials will not be any more expensive than what is currently being purchased year to year. This year the materials will be purchased by Central Office allowing the elementary schools to build their classroom libraries with the books and resources that they deem appropriate from their allocated funds.

MOTION: (Mrs. Harmeling/sec., Mr. Stanek) to recommend to the full Board the approval of the new Math Expression Textbooks for grades 1-5.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mrs. Harmeling, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Strumello

IV. Reports

A. Chairman's Report

None

B. Superintendent's Report

None

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: (Mr. Stanek/sec., Mrs. Harmeling) to adjourn the meeting

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Mr. Stanek, Mrs. Harmeling, Mr. Strumello

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Submitted by:
Pat Boyle