

MONTROSE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER
MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 17, 2011 7:00 P.M.

Mrs. Pam Staats
Chairman

Mr. Michael F. Ognosky
Superintendent of Schools

Curriculum Committee Meeting

I. October 17, 2011 Curriculum Committee meeting began at 7:00 PM in the Community Learning Center of the Junior-Senior High School.

II. Board Members Present: Chairperson Pam Staats, Doug Wilcox, Chris Caterson, Mary Homan, Kristen Follert, and Kathy Mordovancey

Administrators Present: Mike Ognosky, Chris McComb, Don Golden and Jim Tallarico

Teachers Present: Eric Powers and Bill Host

III. The following items under Old Business were discussed at this evening's meeting:

- **Dual Enrollment Update:** Mr. Ognosky updated the group on the status of the Dual Enrollment Program. Chemistry and Psychology will be dual enrollment courses with Luzerne County Community College for this year. Mrs. Lewis has completed the certification process and Mr. Powers has almost completed that process as well. Students can make the decision to take either of those courses as dual enrollment courses at any point in the school year. Mrs. Ohnacht will be in those classrooms in order to explain the enrollment process as soon as she is notified by Luzerne County Community College regarding Mr. Powers successful completion of the certification process.

IV. There were no items discussed under New Business at this evening's meeting:

- **Discussion of the Student Safety Survey Administered in April, 2011:** Board members and Administration reviewed the survey results over the past few weeks and the discussion at this evening's meeting focused in five major areas. 746 high school students (grades 7-12) and 268 elementary students (grades 5-6) took the survey:
 - Theft: The survey results reported that 60% of elementary students surveyed and 41% of High School students surveyed had something taken from their desk, closet, or other place at school. Furthermore, the elementary students surveyed reported that 5.7% had something taken from them by force; the high school students surveyed reported that 11.8% of them had something taken from them by force.
 - Bullying: The survey results reported that 30.8% of elementary students and 33.8% of high school students were bullied during the past school year. 40% of elementary students who

reported being bullied and 51.8% of high school students who reported being bullied said that it happened on more than three occasions.

- Assaults: The survey results reported that 11.9% of high school students and 9.8% of elementary students had been physically attacked in the past year. 52.9% of high school students that reported being attacked and 32% of elementary students that reported being attacked said it occurred on only one occasion.
 - Drugs: In response to the question “Do you think drugs are sold at your school?” 51.7% of high school students answered affirmatively, while 100% of elementary students answered “no”. Of the high school students who answered affirmatively, 38.9% felt that drugs were sold during the school day with 46.8% of those students answering that they were most likely being sold in the bathrooms.
 - Weapons: In response to the question “During the last year, did you carry a weapon to school?” 10.79% of high school students responded affirmatively with 4.7% of elementary students responding affirmatively.
 - The Principals present discussed action items that are in place to address the bullying issue. They discussed reporting procedures for “victims” of bullying and additional options that are being put in place this year to help address that concern.
- **Current Enrollment Status:** Enrollments in all three buildings continue to reach all time lows. As of October 3, 2011; Lathrop Street now has a total of 442 students; Choconut Valley has 331 students; and, the Junior-Senior High School has 795 students. Lathrop Street, which has 7 grade levels, has 3 sections in Kindergarten (53), 2nd grade (57), 3rd Grade (57), 4th Grade (58); and, 5th grade (69). It has 4 sections in 1st grade (63) and 6th grade (78). Choconut Valley, which has 7 grade levels, has 2 sections in 1st grade (37), 4th grade (38), and 5th grade (54). It has 3 sections in Kindergarten (37), 2nd grade (52), 3rd grade (50), and 6th grade (63).
 - **Applied Physics Course Update:** Mr. Host, teacher for the class, provided an update on the status of the class. There are currently 21 students in the class and 14 have elected to take part in the online certification course offered by Solar Energy, Inc. SEI has offered 10 scholarships and the Applied Physics Club will raise the remaining tuition for the 4 other students. The District will upfront the cost of that tuition to the Club in order to meet the enrollment deadline and will be reimbursed through the Applied Physics Club fund raising activities. Mr. Host thanked the board for their continued support of the class.
 - **Future Special Education District Programs:** Dr. Golden, Special Education Director, reported on the current status of special education programs that have returned to the District in the past few years. We currently operate our own Elementary Autistic and Life Skills Programs as well as our own Secondary Emotional Support and Life Skills Programs. Dr. Golden will study the feasibility of adding our own Elementary Emotional Support Program and Secondary Autistic Program for next year. He will complete that study in conjunction with the budget process for 2012-2013.

V. Open Forum – A number of items were brought up during the Open Forum including the following:

- Mr. Ognosky discussed the District’s current AYP status. The District and both elementary schools have now achieved Adequate Yearly Progress since the inception of the AYP reporting process in 2001-2002. Our Junior-Senior High School is currently on the “warning” list for failure to meet the AYP standards for 2010-2011. Mr. Tallarico and Dr. Golden reported they

are currently working with the Math Department to identify those students most in need of remediation.

- Mr. Ognosky also discussed the recently released SAT scores which were our lowest in 8 years. Mr. Tallarico and Mr. Ognosky both discussed implementing an SAT prep class for the spring to assist students with their test preparation. This has been done in the past, but has been discontinued in recent years. The class was held on the four Saturday's prior to the scheduled SAT exam.
- Mr. Wilcox asked if a decision had yet been made on the budget timeline to be followed in the spring. Mr. Ognosky will put this item as a discussion item for the November work session.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Mike Ognosky

Mike Ognosky, Superintendent