

Hempfield School District

Education and Programs Committee Meeting Notes

Committee Purpose

The Committee provides the School Board with a high-level overview of the educational and extracurricular programming of the district; acts as a sounding board for various potential changes in programming, while providing a conduit of communication and recommendations back to the full School Board.

Committee Leadership

*Linda Johnston, School Board Committee Chair
Jim Maurer, School Board Committee Vice-Chair*

Date: June 11, 2020

Time: 4:30-6:00 PM

Location: Virtual Meeting

Minutes

- I. Update on End of Year Instruction: Maria Hoover
 - a. End of year wrap up was discussed.
 - b. Student pick up and drop off of materials is now complete.
 - c. Thank you to all staff who organized and helped.
 - d. Teachers participating in professional development this week
 - i. Several options including social emotional learning were offered.
 - e. Summer Curriculum work: English (Grade 10 alignment of book selections and standards, Grade 9 Vocabulary in Context, and Grades 11-12 evaluation and revision of elective offerings)
 - f. Reopening plans were discussed. There are committees working on all facets of return, including safety and security, instruction, and facilities. Subcommittees are already formed and will report to the larger reopening committee.
- II. Fall Sports/Band Start Up: Steve Polonus
 - a. Dr. Polonus gave a brief update on the July 1 start for both sports and band. He has a focus on all sports because winter sports will start off-season workouts during the fall. Coaches have been briefed and are working on individual plans for health and safety based off of the PDE guidelines for returning to play. The plan will be presented at the June 23, 2020 Special Board Meeting. The hope is students will be able to begin to return by July 1, 2020.
- III. Extended Day to Day Kindergarten Program: Tom Kramer
 - a. Mr. Kramer gave an overview of the Extended Day to Day Kindergarten Program. He discussed the history, as well as how the program has evolved into a full day program. He explained the screening and student selection process. All incoming Kindergarten students are usually screened prior to the end of the school year. This year, however, this was not able to occur due to the school closure. Mr.

Kramer indicated he wanted to use a new screening tool this year, but wasn't able to at this point. He explained in the past, EDK students didn't begin on the first day of school, but we have tried to do this so students didn't have to make two transitions to school. This year, we will most likely have to screen all Kindergarten students once we are back in school. If this is the case, we will not be starting EDK until the school year starts. Mr. Kramer thought this could be about a 3-week turnaround. The program is an integral part of our structure to give additional support to some of our neediest learners coming into school. Mr. Kramer also stated we are looking at the structure and how we could expand the program to other schools in the district.

IV. Positions: Tab Musser/Matt Ceresini

- a. In addition to the marching band, we have indoor winter color guard.
- b. We have so many students participating (30 students), we need more teams/coaches.
- c. There is a proposal to add a JV coach to support the Varsity Color Guard.
- d. Freshman football team: 45 players with 2 paid coaches. This is out of the norm for other schools, most have 1 head coach and 2 assistant coaches for supervision and safety. This will get us up to speed with the other teams in the league.

V. Superintendent:

- a. A week ago, Mr. Bromirski received an email from a parent expressing disappointment in our district for not taking more of stand based on the racial unrest in the country.
 - i. Our district is home to people of diverse cultures. Mr. Bromirski indicated that one of our main goals is to create a safe environment for students to learn and grow.
- b. Emails from alumni have also been received that included recommended steps.
- c. We look at our mission, and clearly racism and violence are counter to our mission.
- d. We expect our staff to follow our mission.
- e. Mr. Bromirski stated one of things that came up is eliminating police presence in our schools
 - i. We have had a great relationship with the police which includes many positive interactions and we continue to build and grow in this area.
 - ii. Another suggestion: Commit to hiring more teachers of color: We need to make sure we are recruiting, and we want the best teaching for our students.
 1. We are mindful of, and we want to build the best teaching staff.
 - iii. Black and Civil Rights instruction in our curriculum
- f. Maria gave some insight on why it is important to address this based on personal experiences with her family within the Hempfield Community, and how she has handled the concept of systemic racism. She also discussed the statement that Mr. Bromirski shared, and compared it to a door. We can ask people to come and talk with us, but if we don't give them a door to open, they are not going to talk about something so intimate and in many cases, scary to them. The statement is posted on the Hempfield website.

- g. Mr. Bromirski discussed this is not, a one-year goal, we need to do a lot of listening. We need people to feel safe and it is our job to take a look at ourselves.
 - h. We discussed what trainings have already occurred and what next steps the district is going to take including having discussions with various stakeholders as well as students. We are looking at training for staff and administration, as well as our curriculum and resources. An example was given with looking at how we select library books and which books are on display in our libraries. Cathi Fuhrman has done a series of trainings with her librarians on this, and they will continue to look at this systemically with the lens of equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- VI. The meeting concluded at 6:15pm