



## Education and Programs Committee Meeting Minutes July 29, 2021

### **Committee Purpose**

*The Committee provides the School Board with a high-level overview of the educational and extra-curricular 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**

*Maria Hoover, Assistant Superintendent  
Linda Johnston, School Board Committee Chair  
Jim Maurer, School Board Committee Chair*

**Start Time:** 5:00 p.m.

**Location:** Performing Arts Center, Hempfield High School

### **Attendees:**

**Board Members:** Linda Johnston, Jim Maurer, Dylan Bard, Charles Merris, Bill Otto, Grant Keener, Mike Donato, Pat Wagner

**Staff:** Kathy Deisley, Jason Hoffman, Joanne Jones, Tab Musser, Lauren Lewis, Tyler Kollinok

### **Time for Public Comment** (5-minute limit per Board Policy 903):

- Ms. Christine Brown stated her name and addressed the Board on concerns related to the Independence Law Center (ILC).
- Ms. Lizz Bender stated her name and addressed the Board on concerns related to the ILC.
- Ms. Elizabeth Melamed stated her name and addressed the Board on concerns related to the ILC.
- Ms. Olivia Heim and Ms. Shannon Heim stated their names and addressed the Board on concerns related to the ILC.
- Ms. Bella Naples stated her name and addressed the Board on concerns related to the ILC.
- Ms. Jennifer Applegate stated her name and addressed the Board on concerns related to the ILC.



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- Ms. Holly Mendenhall stated her name and addressed the Board on concerns related to the ILC, masks, and the music department staffing

Ms. Johnston thanked everyone for their comments and announced that at 5:25 pm, the comments from the public ended.

### Agenda Items:

**Mr. Donato made a motion, seconded by Mr. Keener to rescind the Board's July 13, 2021 motion regarding the Independence Law Center (ILC) and policy development, and to substitute a new motion directing the Administration to work with District Solicitor Fox Rothschild, pursuant to their existing retainer, and the ILC, on a pro bono basis, to develop a policy regarding athletic participation by transgender students.**

**\*\*The board directs the administration to provide updates to the Board regarding their progress no later than September 14, 2021.\*\***

Mr. Donato led a discussion regarding the pros/cons and board members contributed their opinions and ideas.

**Vote: "Aye" 7; "Nay" 1 (Maurer); Motion passed.**

### Grading and Assessment Guidelines: Kathy Deisley/Jason Hoffman

- The existing document was streamlined to the current one.
- The intent of the document is to provide consistent assessment, grading, and reporting practices that promote student learning, encourage academic success, and establish clear communication.
- It was shared with various individuals and groups for feedback and revisions before creating the final copy.
- Discussion topics (elementary/secondary):
  - Core Beliefs
  - Learning Process Grades
  - Cornerstone Assessments
  - Test Corrections/Retest
  - Late Work
  - Make-Up Work
  - Extra Credit



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- Cheating
- Plagiarism
- Possession/Distribution of Academic Property

### **Hempfield Virtual Academy:** Tab Musser

- We currently have 10 elementary students enrolled. The teaching position has been offered. We are looking to use Ecceerate Ed, using our teacher.
- We currently have 62 secondary students enrolled which is a fairly typical number as in past years, minus the pandemic year.

### **Enrollment Update:** Tab Musser

- We offered 2 teaching positions for CES grade 3 and LPC grade 2.
- We are currently watching FES grade 6, MES grade K, MES grade 5.
- We will continue to monitor the numbers.

### **Policy 903:** Tab Musser

- Tab Musser suggested we make a slight change to the wording on policy 903. If a community member or student would like to speak at a meeting and they are not on the agenda, they normally announce their full name and address before speaking. We are requesting, due to privacy reasons that we removed that from the requirements. We will publish the procedures on our website.
- The board had no concerns placing this for a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading on the agenda for August. It would then go through the policy procedure.

### **HS English Resources:** Kathy Deisley/Lauren Lewis

- After new courses were approved in the fall, teachers started reading and evaluating texts.
- Course design allows choice, when possible.
- Each text has a book rational and Kathy shared the "Long Way Down" as an example for us.
- When choosing a novel for a course, they look at many different areas. Mostly important, looking at standards and eligible content.
- Alternative books are available, if needed.
- ESTIMATED Totals (already in 21-22 budget) \$7,558.30
- All books will be on display in the public board room for review beginning on Monday.



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- Introduction to Film Studies
- Klara and the Sun
- The Great Gatsby
- Long Way Down
- The Crossover
- All American Boys
- The Catcher in the Rye
- A Thousand Splendid Suns
- A Raisin in the Sun
- Death of a Salesman
- An Enemy of the People
- Reading the World

### **Future Meeting Dates:**

September 30, 2021 | October 28, 2021 | November 18, 2021 | January 27, 2022  
February 24, 2022 | March 31, 2022 | April 28, 2022 | May 26, 2022

**Meeting ended: 7:10 pm**