

**EDUCATION/POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, May 3, 2021**

**5:30 P.M.**

**NLSD Media YouTube Channel**

Committee Members				Remaining Meeting Dates
X	Gale Husack - Chairperson	X	Jennifer Butz	Monday, June 7, 2021 Monday, August 2, 2021
X	Michele Martineau. - Co-Chair	X	David Hauser	Tuesday, September 7, 2021 Monday, October 4, 2021
X	Michelle Heckman	X	Eric Hill	Monday, November 1, 2021
X	Robert Keegan, Jr.	X	Gene Marks	
X	Matt Link	X	Scott Pyne	
X	Tania Stoker	X	James Schnyderite	
	Jill Chamberlain		Robert Vlasaty	
X	Michele Dotta	X	Tim Weaver	

Also in attendance: Sherri Molitoris, Gary Fedorcha, Bryan Geist

\*\*\* This committee meeting is being recorded. The recording will be posted on YouTube\*\*\*

## **MINUTES**

### **EDUCATION**

- Spring and Summer Learning Programs (Dr. Stoker)
  - Dr. Stoker presented, along with the principals, what the summer learning opportunities will look like for the district. Elementary will be a combined program and there will be similarities between the elementary and secondary summer programs.
  - Elementary
    - Mr. Pyne - Slatington - The summer program is planned around evidence-based approaches. The program will be held from 8:30am to 1:30pm at Slatington Elementary and will include breakfast and lunch. Targeted amount of students between both buildings is 90 students. Slatington will be using the STAR assessment tool and the Imagine Learning as a resource. Looking to use a goal-based

curriculum with teachers and students setting individual goals. Looking to meet the needs of the “whole” child.

- ❑ Mr. Schnyderite - Peters - Reiterated the “whole” child concept. Peters will be using the DIBELS assessment as well as the easyCBM Math along with the Imagine Learning platform. Will build staffing around the number of students enrolled. Looking to have a coordinator to oversee the K-6 program along with four teachers, four paraprofessionals, one dedicated special education teacher, and four student helpers. There is no cost to the parents/students. Estimated cost of the program would be just under \$41,000 for 90 students. The program is not credit recovery.
- ❑ Mr. Pyne commented that daily attendance is an expectation. Research shows that an impact is seen with twenty days of daily attendance. All school rules remain in effect. Aiming to do the program as in-person. There may be a virtual option if needed. Transportation will be provided. Mr. Pyne explained the proposed schedule. Arrival between 8:30 and 9:00 including breakfast, between 9:00 and 9:30 an opening activity which will engage the student in mindfulness, wellness, etc., and the 9:30 to 12:30 block they are looking at 3 block rotations. Students will rotate between Reading-based instruction, Math-based instruction, and a recreational component. The end of the day will include lunch and a closing activity.
- ❑ Dr. Stoker commented that the funding for the program will come from the ESSER grant. Part of the ESSER III grant must be used for learning loss. There will be a possibility to run the program for 2022, 2023, and 2024.
- ❑ Mrs. Husack asked if the grade levels will be combined. Mr. Schnyderite commented that it has not yet been determined. It could be grade-based or skill-based. The program will be based around student needs.
- ❑ Mrs. Martineau asked if ancillary services will be provided such as speech. Dr. Stoker commented that this will be answered later in the presentation with Special Education services.
- ❑ MS & HS
  - ❑ Mr. Hauser - MS/HS Assistant Principal - The secondary program will most likely be housed at the middle school. The time schedule is proposed from 8:00 to 12:15. There will be breakfast and lunch and also considering part-time enrollment in the program. The nature of the program will be credit recovery based. Students will

be permitted to come in for courses they need or the entire program. Grades will be pass/fail for all courses. If a student is successful, they will receive a 60% for their transcript grade of record. MS will be using the STAR assessment and the iXL program. HS will use US Test Prep as an assessment tool. The MS will have four major courses instructed and an additional special course. There will be an end-of-course assessment in all classes. The HS would like to run beginning and advanced level ELA, Algebra I, Geometry, Civics and US History. Also looking to add sciences, foreign language instruction, and electives. Daily attendance is expected and more than 3 absences will result in removal from the program. There will be transportation provided and a virtual option may be offered.

- Mrs. Husack asked about the extra hour daily for teachers at the MS/HS. Dr. Stoker commented that the hour is for prep for lesson plans and US Test Prep use. Elementary also has an hour of prep built in to their day. Mrs. Husack asked about how the district is choosing the coordinator and the instructional staff. Dr. Stoker commented that the coordinator position will be posted (in-house and out-of-district) and administration will interview for the instructional staff along with having the coordinator attend the interviews. Dr. Stoker added that the cost for the secondary program would be approximately \$80,000. Total cost for both programs would be approximately \$125,000. The funding is through the ESSER grant. The district has approximately \$600,000 to spend on learning loss through September 2024.
- Special Education
  - Mrs. Dotta - Director of Special Education - There are two programs that are more about eligibility. COVID Compensatory Services (CCS) is a mandated program through the Bureau of Special Education that is talked about at each individual student's IEP Meeting. Because of the current in-person, 4-day per week program that has been in place the entire year, there is a minimum of student learning loss. IEP teams looked at the student data for the CCS. Remediation will be based on student needs in the summer program which could also include speech, occupational therapy. Every year, the District provides an Extended School Year (ESY) program which is also based on eligibility. ESY will be held for three weeks in July, from 9:00 to 12:00, with breakfast and lunch being served. Staff will be three teachers, five paraprofessionals,

and a nurse. Any related services in a student's IEP will be provided.

- Mrs. Martineau asked where the ESY program will reside. Mrs. Dotta commented that the high school ESY will be held at the high school because the room is set up for those classes. There are no students in the middle school this year that are ESY eligible, only Slatington Elementary and HS. Mr. Link commented that transportation is being provided and the team is working closely with Mr. Derr and Brandywine Transportation. Nurses are always included for ESY but will also be available for all students this year. The District will also work with the Northern Lehigh Recreation and offer them the time and space to the facilities. Because of having so much activity over the summer, there will also be campus security. Really trying to make this as comprehensive as possible for learning, teaching, socialization, nutrition, and security for all students and staff.
- Mrs. Martineau asked if the summer food program will be available to all students like it was last summer. Mr. Link reported that it will be available for all children living in the boundaries of the district, not just for summer but for the upcoming school year as well.
- Mrs. Martineau asked what the reasoning is behind applying the 60% grade at the end of the program. Mr. Hauser explained that the reason the 60% is applied is because it is a course that is taken again which was originally failed. At the high school level, they do have to share a weighted GPA with post-secondary institutions. If a course is remediated through a credit recovery both the failure and the retaking of the course needs to be reflected. In most school districts, the failure goes away but the lowest possible passing grade is put on there for GPA reporting requirements. Mrs. Martineau asked how it works for students who didn't fail a course. Mr. Hauser commented that if they did not fail a course, the grade they have stands.
- Mrs. Husack asked how the summer programs would work through any of the COVID planning and how it will be monitored. Mr. Link commented that county-wide they have been discussing it. The District will follow the Health & Safety Plan but knowing that the plan will adapt to any directives that come from PDE or DOH. He will continue to notify the community of positive cases. As of now, if there are two cases within the 14-day rolling window, he would

have to close it for 48 hours with a choice of adding days or transition to online.

- Board members on the committee were in agreement to move the summer programs forward.
- Bullying Prevention
  - Dr. Stoker presented the Bullying Prevention Initiative which is discussed annually and is part of the Comprehensive Plan. The goal is a district system that fully ensures that each member of the district community promotes, enhances, and sustains a shared vision of a positive school climate and ensures family and community support of student participation in the learning process. The initiative outlines what is planned to do by the district and details at each district building with programs run at each building. This is for the 2021-2022 school year.
  - Mr. Schnyderite explained the School-Wide Positive Behavior Support (SWPBS) with daily expectations. Also, No Name Calling Week, Good Manners & Social Skills Lessons and would like to incorporate trauma-informed care for the upcoming school year.
  - Mr. Pyne explained that they use a curriculum that is tied to positive behavior. The state has provided a tiered program that aligns with the SWPBS. Also provide bullying programs/assemblies and they use a multi-tiered approach to everything from behavior to social/emotional needs to academics and provide interventions. They would also like to incorporate trauma-informed lessons.
  - Mr. Hauser reported that they present bullying prevention/strategies at the orientation evenings for both parents and students. Part of the curriculum in the technology courses does include cyberbullying. Also have small group sessions and use programs such as Project Child and Center for Humanistic Change for individual counseling.
  - Dr. Stoker commented that the Bullying Prevention Initiative does get uploaded to the state through Safe Schools every other year in the summer.

### **POLICY**

- Policy #918 - Title I Parent and Family Engagement (Dr. Stoker)
  - The policy is required when a District receives Federal funds and hosts a Title I program. The District has a program in both elementary buildings, K-6. The policy is required at district-level and at each of the buildings. All documents have been reviewed and, as required, families were asked to review and give feedback to the District. The District is expecting to be monitored this upcoming school year for Federal Programs. There are no

changes to the policy. The purpose of the policy is to have meaningful parent and family engagement in the Title I program. It's a cooperative effort among the school, the parents and/or family members and the community. Dr. Stoker reviewed the policy with the committee. The policy requires a meeting annually, however, Mr. Schnyderite and Mr. Pyne hold a monthly Title I meeting including virtually during the pandemic.

- Board members on the committee agreed to move the policy to the May board meeting as being reviewed.
- Policy #305 - Employment of Substitutes (Mrs. Molitoris)
  - Mrs. Molitoris shared the updated draft policy and explained that this policy is part of the policies that was merged with BoardDocs (PSBA program) and has not been looked at yet. The last time it was revised was November 2007 and a lot of it was outdated. The policy was updated to include all substitutes including support, permanent, day-to-day, short-term and long-term.
  - Mrs. Husack asked about what is recalculated when a long-term substitute leaves before the 95 day period. Is it just salary or also the fringe benefits? Mrs. Molitoris commented that while they are in the district, they do have their fringe benefits and you can't go back and take those benefits away. The benefits would stop when they leave. The salary can be recalculated to the short-term salary. It doesn't happen very often.
  - Board members on the committee agreed to move the policy to the May board meeting for first reading.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

***Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 7, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.***