

Boyertown Area School District
Curriculum Committee
April 14, 2015
Minutes

Dr. Christman called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM in Conference Room A of the Education Center.

Board members in attendance: Dr. Christman, Ms. Neiman, Mr. Landino, Mrs. Usavage, Mrs. Dennin, Mr. Stengle, and Mr. Elsier (6:30 PM)

Administration in attendance: Dr. Miller, Dr. Woodard, Mr. Scoboria, and Dr. Faidley

BASD Staff in Attendance: 4

Members of the Public: 2

Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance and observed a Moment of Silence.

The minutes from the March 17th meeting were accepted.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Presentation and Discussion

Dr. Christman shared that tonight there would be two presentations: one being an update on the 1:1 Instructional Initiative and the Master Teacher Concept overview.

Dr. Woodard introduced the topic for this evening. Specifically she explained that we would be hearing an update on the 1:1 instructional initiative and the focus on staff member readiness. Dr. Woodard introduced a few of the Boyertown staff members who participated in the cohort: Becca Hester (Technology Coach), Patti Wilkins (Science teacher) Sue Dacey (English teacher) and Lucy Dyer (World Language teacher).

Dr. Woodard briefly went over the goals of the initiative, otherwise known as the four C's: Collaboration, Communication, Creativity and Critical Thinking. We would like to see increased student engagement to better prepare students for college and/or career. She then shared the timeline for the 1:1 instructional initiative.

Year 14-15 – Provided sets of netbooks and training to the core team of 10th grade teachers. Becca met with this core team of teachers on a monthly basis to help set goals and worked individually on classroom implementation. In addition, the entire cohort met on a monthly basis sharing what they learned, along with their challenges. This will continue as we roll out the 2nd cohort of teachers.
Year 15-16 – Will provide all 10th grade students with netbooks and provide classroom set to teachers in 11th grade. Year 16-17 – Provide all 11th grade students with netbooks and classroom sets to teachers of 12th and 9th grade. The cycle will continue until BASH grades 9-12 is fully 1:1.

Dr. Miller shared his survey results from the beginning and end of the first cohort. In the beginning teachers showed some weakness in their comfort level and by the end the data showed strength and ease of use. He concluded that by slowing down the initiative we better prepared our teachers for the implementation. We are currently replicating this with the second cohort. Dr. Miller also shared that teachers' comments about the experience have all been positive and they felt a sense of accomplishment.

Dr. Woodard shared feedback from current second cohort teacher, Rochelle Towne, who felt this was the best professional development experience of her career. She loves implementing what she learned in the classroom and feels it enhances her level of teaching.

Mr. Landino thanked the administration on the rollout plan and thanked the teachers for their participation. He wanted to know if there were any "Aha" moments. Patti Wilkins responded that she felt surprised that some students didn't know as much as they thought about technology.

Mrs. Usavage asked if all 10th grade teachers are getting netbooks, not just the cohort teachers. Dr. Woodard explained that all 10th grade teachers will get them.

The teacher representatives shared their perceptions on the 1:1 initiative. Patti Wilkins (Science teacher) loves technology and feels it brings out creativity in their studies. She did use the netbooks in both levels of her classes: academic and honors. She saw an increased level of engagement from the students.

Sue Dacey (English teacher) felt the students engaged in learning much more. She incorporated the netbooks very much. All papers were turned in using Google Classroom, which is also where they would receive their homework assignments. This made the students more accountable for their work. She felt this experience was very positive and boosted her students' morale.

Lucy Dyer (World Language teacher) was worried the kids would be miles ahead of her with technology but with the help of the cohort team and Becca she overcame those fears. She felt the netbooks helped with time management, not having the down time to pass out papers and all lessons were already available to start work right away. She loved posting videos of lessons which also helped with absent students. She saw an increase in vocab scores due to the availability of flash cards and online quizzes. The netbooks kept her students engaged the full class time.

Dr. Faidley thanked everyone for their hard work and loved hearing all the positive feedback.

Mrs. Usavage asked about the sharing of best practices. Becca responded that she is very supportive of technology and feels we are focused on instruction with technology supporting it. Tools can be used in collaborative assessment.

Mrs. Dennin expressed how much she appreciated the hard work and feels technology is a vital skill to be college and career ready.

Dr. Woodard invited everyone to attend the Tech Fest and Student Showcase on May 2nd at JHE. Students K-12 will be presenting projects as a result of using computers.

Ms. Neiman is interested in seeing if scores increased from the beginning to the end of the year. She also asked if we are checking grammar and spelling. Mrs. Dacey responded that students are being

graded on spelling and grammar. The computers do offer spell check. However, she expressed to the students that this was not always accurate. She encouraged the students to double check their editing and feels they were doing it more often using the computers.

Mr. Stengle asked if there was an interface between the netbook and textbook. Mrs. Dacey explained it depends on the subject area. In English you can view digital versions online of the textbooks. In science only some of the textbooks are available.

Mr. Stengle asked if any of the teachers found any limitations to the netbook. All the teachers agreed they haven't found any limitations and had few technical issues arise.

Mr. Elsier asked if the netbook was equipped with Microsoft software. Dr. Woodard responded, that they are. Mr. Elsier feels this will enable students to succeed in the workplace.

Dr. Miller summarized the next steps of the 1:1 initiative will be developing procedures to distribute equipment, looking at the responsibility of the students, and proper training.

Ms. Neiman wondered if there was a notification that alerted the teacher that a student read an assignment. Becca stated she did not know of any notification options available.

Dr. Christman thanked everyone who volunteered their time and was happy to hear and see the beginning of the integration. He would like to hear some student feedback. He announced the Master Teacher Concept presentation would be moved to the next curriculum meeting.

Committee Comment

No comments

Public Comment

Mrs. Curry wanted to know what the policy would be since the netbooks would be going home with the students. Dr. Christman stated we will definitely be looking into the responsibility procedures of the students.

Announcements

April 14, 2015 – Board of School Directors Meeting, Ed Center Board Room, 7:00 PM

April 21, 2015 – Facilities Planning Committee Meeting, Ed Center Board Room, 6:00 PM

April 21, 2015 – Finance Committee Meeting, Ed Center Board Room, 7:00 PM

April 28, 2015 – Personnel Committee Meeting, NHUF Elem, 6:00 PM

April 28, 2015 – Board of School Directors Meeting, NHUF Elem, 7:00 PM

Dr. Christman adjourned the meeting at 6:55 PM