STUDENT LEARNING AND ACHIEVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 17, 2017

The meeting began an 7:07am with Bill Wade, Scott Amstutz, Katie Vitatoe, Lynn Campbell, Chad Van Arnhem, Becky Malinas, Tim Cosgrove, Joe Solnosky and Kat Torok.

Mr. Wade shared his proposed calendar for the 2017-18 school year which he created by working with Mr. Scott Greenlee and comparing calendars of other local districts in creating proposed calendar. This calendar will be presented for public comment at the January BOE meeting and is on the agenda for approval by the Board. Instructional days for the proposed calendar year will be 175 which is down 1 from this current year. State requires 910 hours of instructional time per school year for k-6 and 1001 for 7-12. Our longer instructional day compared to many other schools puts us well above the required hours when multiplied by the current 176 instructional days this year and the 175 proposed for next year.

Mr. Wade gave an update from the January Curriculum Council meeting. The group would like to create a 5-year vision on what they would like to accomplish with the focus for next year being to concentrate on curriculum mapping for the district. Grades 6-12 would be the respective subjects being taught while focusing on 1-2 subject areas in the elementary grades. The plan is to map out curriculum by month what topics to be taught, skill and concepts to be learned and then align such with appropriate assessments. This plan would encompass much of the professional development sessions for the upcoming 2017-18 school year. The goal is to facilitate the best research based methods of instruction and to create a common language and instructional strategies amongst the staff. Most importantly the mapping and regular evaluation of such will align the curriculum with teaching allowing for detection of gaps occurring and filling those with appropriate content and instruction. Mr. Amstutz and Mrs. Vitatoe gave a presentation on Project Based Learning from a conference attended and their plan to present and train the staff on Project Based Assessments (PBA) so all are trained by the 2018-19 school year. Additional improvements would then be implemented and added for remaining years of the 5-year curriculum plan for the 2020 and 2021 school years. The intent is to get more staff trained in regards to the ILN (Innovation Lab Network) with PBA being a component of the portfolios currently being developed for students. The long-term goal is to create digital portfolios that students will graduate with and have to utilize for a potential Capstone project and submission for college applications.

Another focus of the CC meeting was to review the possibility of expanding the 1:1 technology from 8-12, to 5-12 and then k-12 with a redistribution of devices occurring from the sale of the current MacBook's and then purchasing Lenovo Idea pads which will come at a far less cost but still provide the needed ability to allow for the technology integration within instruction throughout all grades. This plan was formally discussed at the December 2016 Finance meeting with a proposal to approve plan to be presented to the Board on the January 2017 BOE meeting agenda.

Mrs. Malinas and Mr. Van Arnhem led a discussion and review of this school years testing calendar including a discussion of the required tests and which alternative tests can be utilized for proof of proficiency. This discussion was a breakdown of the required State and district chosen tests which have already taken place and in what grade as well as what is yet to come for the remaining school year. Additionally, an accounting was given of results returned from completed testing and what remediation steps are in place for those students who are in need of retaking the required State tests for advancement. All State mandated tests are being taken on the computer in all grade levels. Handouts were provided showing all the various tests scheduled across the grade levels by month.

Due to time constraints, the CCP Courses for 2017-18 and Pen Ohio were held for the February 14th SLA meeting. Additionally, Dr. Campbell will give a presentation regarding the potential need of a ½ time Guidance Counselor for the upcoming school year.

Without any further public comments the meeting was adjourned at 8:20am.