



**SOUTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

**Education Committee Meeting
Central Office Conference Room
4/27/2010
4:30 PM**

Minutes

I. OPENING PROCEDURES

A. Time: 4:32 PM

B. *Recording of attendance by the Secretary:*

Present: Leah Christman, Kristen Lewis, Ken Jordan, Joan Takacs; Patti Mohr,
Bill Hayes; Corrinne Gunkle

Visitors: Karen Przelomski, Lisa Costa

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES from March 2010 meeting : Approved

III. NEW BUSINESS/ PRESENTATIONS / REPORTS

A. Mr. Jordan presented a video of students in a high school science class that was created by the District's multimedia technician, Matt Murray. The video showcased how students are integrating technology into a traditional science lab setting. The District plans to place videos like this on the District website.

B. Technology purchases – A review of teacher laptop issues and costs for failing batteries was discussed. A plan to recycle the laptops into classrooms was shared in order to extend the useful life of the units. The existing 2009-10 technology budget supports the replacement of laptops for teachers. Given the age of the laptops and the issues that are occurring, it is the recommendation of the administration that the laptops be replaced. Committee members supported the plan.

C. Cyber (Charter) options – As a district we are spending approximately \$900,000 for tuition to all charter schools, with the largest portion going to cyber options. The district is exploring options to attempt to bring these funds back into the school district by joining a Lehigh Valley Cyber Consortium group along with other Lehigh County school districts. Committee members supported further research to do so, along with beginning to survey local cyber charter families in order to gain more information.

D. Large group instruction – There was a proposal made by some board members that we should offer some high school (senior) courses that would accommodate 200 – 300 students conducted in an auditorium in order to simulate some of the college courses that students encounter during their first years of college.

Discussion revolved around this not being an optimal educational practice and doesn't facilitate the building of relationships and meeting the needs of students. Logistical factors which would need further exploration were raised such as equity among teacher load and capacity for grading larger volumes of assessments, student engagement, facility availability, ability to differentiate instruction and to meet potential individual student needs.

- E. Class size targets – The administration is in the process of researching what data exists concerning class size and student performance. For the next meeting the administration will bring research found and historical data on class size in the district.
- F. Reconfiguration of delivery models – The Middle School is looking at reconfiguring some of their courses based on what we have learned this year as we have been going through the process of converting to a 7th/8th grade building. Specifically, absorbing the 8th grade Research course into other classes to open up the schedule to assist in delivering related arts and foreign languages in a more effective way. At the Intermediate School we are exploring a redesign of related arts courses to bring about more focus of delivery. At the elementary level we are exploring a different option for the 5th grade Related Arts. The current program has caused our RtII personnel to be unable to effectively deliver RtII. The new option would revolve around different technology and keyboarding skills.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Advanced Placement – A student survey was given to current AP students. The purpose of the survey was to determine some of the reasons why students take AP courses, why they choose to take the AP exam or not take it, and what their plans are for next year regarding AP courses. The Education Committee's proposal is that we not require students to take the AP exam but that we offer incentives and encouragement to students to take the exam. One recommendation is to exempt students from taking final course exams if they take the AP exam for the course.

V. VISITORS' COMMENTS

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION (ANY TIME IF NEEDED) None needed

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjournment: 5:50 PM