

Pennridge School District
Curriculum Committee Meeting Notes
June 1, 2021

A meeting of the Pennridge School District Curriculum Committee was held on June 1, 2021 at 6:30 PM in the District Administrative Offices, Board Room and via livestream. The following Board Members were present: Mrs. Lisa Walters, Mrs. Joan Cullen, Mr. Ronald Wurz, Mr. William Krause, Mrs. Megan Banis-Clemens, and Mr. Robert Cormack. Also present were: Dr. David Bolton, Dr. Kathy Scheid, and Dr. Anthony Rybarczyk.

Public Comment:

No public comment

6th Grade Reading – Making Meaning: Mrs. Sarah Raber ([click for full presentation](#))

Mrs. Raber presented a Program Improvement proposal for 6th grade Analysis of Fiction and Non-fiction. The Reading program at the elementary level include *Making Meaning* as the curriculum resource. The proposal calls for an extension of K-5 implementation to K-6. The curriculum materials will be funded through ESSER grant, and professional development costs will be funded through Title II.

Dr. Bolton asked if there will be an on-going cost of this program and how it will be funded in future years. Mrs. Raber responded that the on-going cost is the cost of students' consumables and will be accounted for in the Reading/Language Arts (RELA) budget.

Mrs. Banis-Clemens asked how long it will take for changes to be reflected in Pennridge educational ratings since major RELA curriculum programs have been implemented at the elementary schools. Dr. Bolton responded that elementary students have already shown gains from elementary RELA curriculum renewal. The district goal is for students to be on grade level for reading by the end of the third grade.

All Board members in attendance agreed to move the proposal to motion at the June 16, 2021 School Board meeting.

Curriculum Renewal and Mapping: Dr. Kathy Scheid and Curriculum Supervisors

Dr. Scheid stated that she was proud to present four units of study with curriculum supervisors and Pennridge teachers. Curriculum mapping professional development was supported by Dr. Heidi Hayes-Jacobs and Dr. Bena Kallick. Secondary teachers from different departments shared their curriculum writing experiences and positive changes in teaching and learning (watch [video](#)).

Dr. Scheid presented Pennridge [vision](#) for curriculum development and [guidelines](#) for teaching and learning.

Mrs. Raber and two High School teachers, Mrs. Jessica Saylor and Mrs. Julia Grimshaw presented a RELA unit – 10th grade *American Literature*.

Mrs. Banis-Clemens asked if the curriculum units could be accessed in Atlas. Dr. Scheid responded that the pdf files were shared with the Board members. The community will be able to access parts of the curriculum units via Atlas later in the summer or early Fall.

Mrs. Boletta and Central Middle School teacher, Mrs. Stefani Scholz, presented 7th grade Science unit – *Genetics*.

Mr. Veverka and Central Middle School teacher, Mrs. Amy Welter, presented Social Studies unit – *Shaping the American Story*.

Mr. Vogel presented two units – *Math 8* and *Personal Finance* with two secondary teachers, Mrs. Sandy Miller, Central Middle School and Mrs. Kate O'Boyle, Pennridge High School.

Mrs. Banis-Clemens commented that she would like to see *Personal Finance* as a graduation requirement since it teaches students life skills and helps them make smart financial decisions in future. Dr. Scheid responded that work is currently underway in that regard.

Dr. Bolton thanked teachers and curriculum supervisors for their work on curriculum writing. He made note that once courses are approved and adopted, there will be public access to some information in Atlas.

Dr. Bolton asked Dr. Scheid if Critical Race Theory is part of the conversation during curriculum work. Dr. Scheid responded that it was not and will not be part of the curriculum at Pennridge.

DEI Update: Dr. Cheri Derr ([click for full presentation](#))

Dr. Derr introduced our DEI consultant, Mrs. Laura Lomax, and High School teacher, Mrs. Megan Thomas, who joined her for the DEI Update presentation and DEI Guidebook overview.

Mrs. Cullen stated that recourses need to reflect diverse opinions and different points of view. The discussion on DEI guidelines, resources, and DEI Committee representation took place among School Board members.

Dr. Bolton stated that he was proud of the work that DEI team has done. He also commented that the DEI documents are in draft form and that revisions are expected. He also explained that the curriculum resources teachers use in the classrooms must be approved by the supervisors, and clarified the difference between district-wide professional learning and PLT sessions.

Elementary Trimesters and Report Cards: Dr. Anthony Rybarczyk ([click for full presentation](#))

Dr. Rybarczyk presented an overview of the work done by the Elementary Progress Reporting Committee over the last three months.

Mr. Krause thanked Dr. Rybarczyk for the work done on progress reporting. He asked if the comments on the reports will still be pre-determined. Dr. Rybarczyk answered that teachers want to provide parents with students' academic and social performance. The comment section of the report cards will be further discussed, and it might be a combination of pre-determined statements and other comments allowing teachers to express their feedback.

Mr. Wurz asked what will be done if parents want to conference with teachers after report cards are received. Dr. Rybarczyk answered that the pilot will help to make further decisions.

Mrs. Walters shared that she had a positive experience with trimester report cards in a different school district. She believes it will be a great pilot from a teacher's perspective.

Mrs. Banis-Clemens commented that parents will receive sufficient feedback from teachers from two conferences and ongoing communications. Dr. Rybarczyk agreed with her and added that the new reports will provide broader information on student performance.

Public Comment:

The following community members addressed the School Board (click for full committee meeting recording [here](#)):

Diane Haring/Hilltown Township – Comment regarding DEI

Paul Clymer/West Rockhill Township – Comment regarding heroes, liberty, and patriotism in the new curriculum

Carolyn Sciarrano/Hilltown – Comment regarding DEI Committee

Monique Jones/Perkasie Borough – Comment regarding DEI resources request

Janelle Montigney/Hilltown Township – Comment about book study

Donte King/Hilltown Township – Comment regarding DEI Committee

Alexa Gorowska/Perkasie – Comment about student's art

Andrienne King/Hilltown Township – Comment regarding DEI

Kim Bedillion/Perkasie – Comment about Pennridge community

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.