

Seymour Board of Education
Curriculum and Technology Committee Minutes
May 10, 2021
Zoom
6:00 PM

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kristen Harmeling
Kristen Bruno
Jim Garofolo

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent
Mary Sue Feige, BES Principal
Lauren Reid, BES Assistant Principal
Dave Olechna, CLS Principal
Stacey Albertson, CLS Assistant Principal
Alison Brett, CLS Teacher
Kyle Mullaney, CLS Teacher
Jim Freund, SHS Principal
Paul Lucke, SHS Assistant Principal
Pat Boyle, Board Clerk

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

A. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance

II. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

III. **INFORMATION**

A. Summer School Update

Mrs. Tencza gave a brief update on the summer school programs. The elementary schools summer program will be housed at CLS and will have 3 Summer Literacy Teachers, 2 Summer Math Teachers, 1 Summer TESOL certified ELL teacher and 2 paraprofessionals to help out. Kyle Mullaney is the Elementary Site Supervisor. The Secondary Site Supervisor will be Melissa Anelli. The secondary program will be at SMS. It will consist of ELA for both SMS and SHS; a SHS Science teacher and SMS Math. Mrs. Harmeling asked about math and social studies at the high school level. Mrs. Tencza said there were no applicants. The jobs were posted for both internal and external candidates. Mr. Freund said the high school was currently offering extra help and programs to try to get their students up to passing grades before the school year ends (Credit Recovery), but as in the past Seymour students could opt to go to another town to take a more traditional summer school program. Mr. Lucke explained that students failing were given an assigned study hall with tutors and teachers to help get their grades up as well as reassigning their homerooms to teachers that could assist in this. Mrs. Tencza said the middle school is also offering a similar program utilizing their GRIT time block to help struggling students. The traditional Special Education program will be offered. 95 students will be in the 4-week program and 30 will stay on for the additional 2 weeks. Alison Brett will be the Supervisor for that program.

B. Middle School Schedule Update

Mrs. Tencza reports that the middle school schedule has remained as it was presented to the committee in February. There will be 7 periods a day with no dropping of classes. Home Room will be in the lunch period.

C. High School Schedule Update

Mr. Freund says the high school is excited to bring back the 8-drop 2 schedule with the addition of a daily Homeroom and SRBI block. The additional block will be used for both Capstone Projects and the SEL program. Mrs. Harmeling wanted to know if the SEL classes would be the same for the whole school. Mr. Freund said no, each grade would be different and 10 teachers would be going for special training to help the homeroom teachers with these lessons.

IV. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

A. Discussion-Elementary Math Pilot

Mrs. Tencza explained that current practice for companies is that most math programs come in 6-year bundles and after that, access becomes obsolete. This is what happened with our current program of Math Expressions. The resources for our current program were no longer supported. So last year a committee was formed to pilot some of the newer math programs. Mrs. Reid said the committee was comprised of both schools, special education and the Math SRBI teachers. The committee went to EDreports which is an independent reviewer of instructional materials. They picked the most highly rated programs that aligned to the common core standards, were user friendly, and had instructional supports. The committee narrowed it down to 1. enVisions 2. Ready Math 3. Math Expressions (2020) 4. Bridges. Materials were sent for comparison with the committee looking specifically for programs offering; Math Discourse, a Workshop Model, differentiation, spiral review, vocabulary, math practices, and math standards. The committee then pared it down to Bridges and enVision. Alison Brett said they piloted both programs in co-taught classrooms and found enVisions was kid friendly and met all of the goals that they had set for the new program. The feedback from both parents and students was very positive. Bridges was highly respected by some teachers but the inquiry approach had material that is slightly more difficult to unpack and was not as kid friendly in some teacher's opinion. It would require more professional development than enVisions. Mrs. Albertson said enVisions was very easy to integrate with the Math Workshop model and allowed for student discourse, which was one of prime objectives for the new math program. It was easy to use in the classroom or for distance learning if needed. Mr. Mullaney gave a demonstration from both the teacher and student book explaining the Focus of the Lesson, rigor, overview of the differentiation, the enrichment lessons, Math Workshop model, tutorials and Distance Learning Supports. He said it was meant to help both struggling students and to offer enrichment to the higher students.

MOTION: (Ms. Bruno/sec., Mr. Garofolo) to recommend to the full Board the approval of "enVision Mathematics 2020" as the new elementary K-5 math curriculum resource.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling

V. **REPORTS**

A. Chairman's Report

Ms. Harmeling wanted to thank the Math Piloting Committee for pushing through and to the administrators for the informational items.

B. Superintendent's Report

Mrs. Tencza wanted to thank Mrs. Reid, Mrs. Albertson and the administrators as well as this sub-committee, and most importantly, the teachers who piloted the programs and provided input.

VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION :(Mr. Garofolo/sec., Ms. Bruno) to adjourn meeting at 7:11 PM.

SO VOTED

AFFIRMATIVE: Ms. Bruno, Mr. Garofolo, Ms. Harmeling