

# COCALICO SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Denver, PA

A special meeting of the Cocalico School Board was called to order on Monday, February 6, 2017 by the Vice President, Rev. Kevin Eshleman, who welcomed all those in attendance.

### Board Members Present

John Lorah

Juanita Fox

Richard Brenner

Randall Renninger

Barry Harting

Desiree Wagner

Rev. Kevin Eshleman

### Administrators Present

Dr. Ella Musser

Sherri Stull

Dr. Stephen Melnyk

Dr. Brad Testa

Dr. Nathan Van Deusen

Mrs. Susan Snyder

### Guests Present

Michelle Shirey

Rev. Eshleman called the meeting to order and then turned the meeting over to Dr. Ella Musser, Superintendent, who introduced Dr. Stephen Melnyk, Assistant Superintendent, and Ms. Michelle Shirey, Middle School Guidance Counselor. Ms. Shirey explained PA Mandate Chapter 339 which requires all school districts to provide a comprehensive program of student services for Kindergarten through Grade 12, including a sequential program of guidance services. She shared that a school counseling program comprised of academic, career, and social/emotional supports, beginning as early as the elementary level, can have a tremendous impact on the future success of students in the workplace. Ms. Shirey also stressed that such success may not only necessitate an education, but also require specialized skills, interpersonal abilities, and technological expertise.

Dr. Melnyk provided an update on the District's Gifted and Accelerated Learning Program. He shared that a consultant had been utilized to analyze and assess the current program and to help determine student needs. He added that District Administration also worked closely on the project with the Special Services Department. Dr. Melnyk offered an overview of gifted education, explained the gifted eligibility matrix that considers multiple criteria, provided listings of enrichment and acceleration opportunities, and described the next steps to be taken in order to provide enrichment for all Cocalico students.

Dr. Brad Testa and Mrs. Susan Snyder presented program updates for the Middle School. Dr. Testa opened the presentation by sharing the Middle School's Mission and Vision Statements. Mrs. Snyder provided rationale for change and improvement, citing that there is always opportunity to improve. Dr. Testa shared that one subject area on

which the Middle School will be concentrating is Math, where there is a need to move from leveling to heterogeneous classes. Doing so would allow for higher expectations and goals for all students, thereby challenging students to reach their potential. He added that intervention and team modifications would be made at each grade level to facilitate the Middle School program changes.

Under miscellaneous items, Dr. Musser (1) shared that the District had received a congratulatory note from Senator Ryan Aument expressing pleasure at seeing Cocalico School District featured in the National AP District Honor Roll; (2) explained the Future Ready PA Index, a new way to measure PA schools which provides a more holistic view of school performance by placing value on schools' efforts to help all students learn, grow and succeed, not only in the classroom, but also in life; (3) reported that the Lancaster County Career & Technology Center will close its high school Cosmetology Program at the end of the 2017-2018 school year due to not being listed as a "High Priority Occupation" in either the state or Lancaster County; (4) handed out a Property Tax Elimination sheet that provides talking points for answering constituents' questions or inquiries; and (5) commented that the Anti-Heroin Task Force presentation was well done. Rev. Eshleman added that he was pleased with the turnout, but would have liked more information regarding the numbers of those affected in our immediate community.

Time was given for questions and answers after each presentation. There being no more business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned followed by an Executive Session to discuss matters involving the terms and conditions of employment of specific employees.

Sherri L. Stull  
Secretary