

COCALICO SCHOOL DISTRICT

Denver, PA

A special meeting of the Cocalico School Board was called to order on Monday, March 6, 2017 by the President, Mr. Allen Dissinger, who welcomed all those in attendance.

Board Members Present

John Lorah	Randall Renninger	Desiree Wagner
Juanita Fox	Barry Harting	Allen Dissinger
Douglas Graybill		

Administrators Present

Dr. Ella Musser	Dr. Stephen Melnyk	Dr. Nathan Van Deusen
Sherri Stull	Chris Irvine	Angela Marley

Guests Present

Dr. Kent Sweigart	Lesley Stricker	Kristine Butz
Kim Graham	Brian Eckhart	

Mr. Dissinger called the meeting to order and then turned the meeting over to Dr. Ella Musser, Superintendent, who introduced Mrs. Angela Marley, Denver Elementary Principal, and Mr. Brian Eckhart, 4th grade teacher and Curriculum Council Member, for a presentation on elementary social studies textbooks for grades 1 through 5. Mrs. Marley explained the need to implement a new social studies program that presents up-to-date and accurate information, adding that the current program is 23 years old. Mr. Eckhart described the process and timeline utilized to find a core program that would not only integrate reading and writing into the subject, but also be visually stimulating. After much research, the Social Studies Curriculum Committee identified Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) as the best program option. According to Mrs. Marley, twenty professional staff members from the three elementary schools have volunteered to be pilot teachers using the textbooks and online materials during the 2017-2018 school year.

Mr. Chris Irvine, High School Principal, spoke of the need to update high school math textbooks, which hasn't been done in 10 and 15 years. He then introduced Mrs. Kristine Butz, high school Math Teacher. Mrs. Butz shared that the Math Department was interested in purchasing *Big Ideas Math: Geometry* textbooks from HMH due to the consistency the text would provide to the curriculum. She also mentioned that the High School would continue using the textbook, *PreCalculus: Graphical, Numerical Algebraic*, due to the fact that it's one of the better texts available. Mr. Irvine revealed *Krugman's Economics for AP* (2nd edition) was chosen for the AP Economics classes, but that a textbook for AP Computer Science may not be warranted; software may suffice.

Dr. Kent Sweigart, Director of Technology, reviewed current staffing in the Technology Department. He shared that due to the 1:1 Mission Inspire initiative, devices have increased from 3,100 in 2012 to more than 5,000 in 2016, and that infrastructure has expanded along with it. In addition, Dr. Sweigart and Dr. Musser both spoke of the need to address the District's disaster recovery and business continuity plans. Therefore, it was recommended that a part-time position be added in the Technology Department in order to pick up the support duties of another employee within the department who would be trained to assist in network/system duties. New job descriptions would be created for each of these positions.

Dr. Musser announced that on February 17th, she and Mrs. Sherri Stull, Business Manager, had attended a meeting with officials from both UGI and East Cocalico Township. UGI is interested in moving its headquarters to the area and is seeking tax relief from the school district, township and county through the Local Economic Revitalization Tax Assistance Act (LERTA). Under a LERTA agreement, new taxes generated on any improvements to the property would be abated in the first year and then phased in incrementally during a ten-year period. The company stated that such an arrangement would help offset some of the expenses associated with developing the site which has proved challenging due to the absence of sewer and natural gas lines, and the possible presence of a bog turtle habitat.

Dr. Musser, Mrs. Stull, and Mrs. Lesley Stricker, Assistant Business Manager, presented the first draft of the Cocalico School District's Proposed Budget for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Mrs. Stricker and Mrs. Stull reviewed the budget timeline, provided specific information on key revenue and expenditure components of the General Fund, and explained how the District would be impacted financially by using two different Act 1 scenarios. They shared how the District budgets conservatively for revenues and aggressively for expenditures, and described the effects that the rising PSERS liability has had on district revenues which have been essentially stagnant in comparison. Without a tax increase, revenues are only projected to increase 1.81% or \$937,189. Although the 2017-2018 Proposed Budget of \$60,615,973 represents a 4.65% increase in expenditures over the current year budget, Dr. Musser stressed that various options were being investigated to reduce the increase. Historical budget information was also provided, along with information on the PA State Budget proposed by Governor Wolf.

Under miscellaneous items, Dr. Melnyk announced there will be an adult workshop offered by the District in social media, in response to a recent community survey. Dr. Musser (1) shared that the Wrestling Team and 5 students from the boys' swimming team are headed to the State competitions, and the bowling team made it to Regionals, (2) advised that the District solicitor informed School Administration that the Supreme Court will not hear the case on the transgender bathroom issue; instead, it's being sent back to the states, (3) announced that approximately 320 people attended the Education Foundation fundraiser Iron Chef over the weekend, (4) stated that Cocalico students would be participating in an "Odyssey of the Mind" competition on March 11th at Millersville University, and (5) reminded Board Members of the Legislative Breakfast to be held March 13th at the Lancaster-Lebanon IU 13.

Time was given for questions and answers after each presentation. There being no more business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned.

Sherri L. Stull
Secretary