

MIDDLETOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Academic Affairs Committee Meeting
February 16, 2016 – 6:30 p.m.
MINUTES

Members in attendance: Newton Davis, David John and Linda Mehaffie

Members not in attendance: Mike Corradi

Non-Voting Members in attendance: Terry Gilman and Christopher Lupp

Staff/Public in attendance: Earl Bright, Darren DiCello, Marie Drazenovich, David Franklin, Chelton Hunter, Christine Mostoller, Tom Shaffer, Lori Suski and Heidi Zula, District Administrators; Lorraine Altland, Michelle Geppert and Jodi Neuschwander, District Nursing Staff; Beth Gannon-Rittenhouse and Justin Smith, MAEA Representatives; William Vollmar, School Physician; and Cheryl Dondero, Dauphin County Drug & Alcohol Services

Executive Session The committee met in Executive Session at 6:20 p.m. to discuss a student disciplinary matter.

Opportunity for
Public Comment No one addressed the committee at this time.

Communications **Information Item – PSAT Data:** Mrs. Mostoller provided information regarding the administration of the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT). Mrs. Mostoller’s information detailed which students take the test and the changes in the test for 2015-2016. Mrs. Mostoller’s information indicated that a comparison with prior years is not possible because of the changes in the test. Mrs. Mostoller’s information did compare the mean score in Middletown (934) with the state average (994). Mrs. Mostoller’s information emphasized the fact that Middletown pays for the exam, which may not occur in most school districts, and therefore a greater percentage of students may take the test in Middletown resulting in a lower mean score.

Information Item – Mid-Year Elementary Data: Ms. Drazenovich reviewed a PowerPoint presentation comparing mid-year elementary reading data with baseline data. Ms. Drazenovich stated that the information is obtained from the Aimsweb system used by the District. Ms. Drazenovich explained that Aimsweb is a system of assessment that can be used for screening, benchmarking and progress monitoring. Ms. Drazenovich said that Aimsweb is used to help determine if students are “on track” for academic success. Ms. Drazenovich said that Aimsweb benchmarking is done at the elementary level three times per year. Ms. Drazenovich said that targets increase at each benchmark. Ms. Drazenovich reviewed assessments of letter naming fluency, letter sound fluency, phoneme segmentation fluency, nonsense word fluency, oral reading fluency, and MAZE comprehension. Mrs. Mehaffie asked whether the District’s students are performing where they should be in comparison with students at the state or national level. Ms. Drazenovich said that the students are performing well when averaged out. Dr. Suski explained that the Aimsweb data is used more for universal screening purposes so that the

teachers can determine which individual students need to improve skills rather than for comparison against other school districts. Mrs. Mehaffie asked whether the Aimsweb system is new in the District. Ms. Drazenovich confirmed that the system has been used in the District for several years.

Curriculum

Information Item – New High School Courses: Mrs. Mostoller explained that two new courses – Criminal Justice and Introduction to Social Sciences – are being developed as half credit Social Studies department electives for the 2016-2017 school year. Mrs. Mostoller applauded the initiative of the teachers who developed the new courses. Mrs. Mostoller explained that the curriculum will be presented to the committee for approval after it has been written.

Action Item – Outdated Curriculum Materials: Mrs. Mostoller reviewed a proposal to have a book buyer purchase outdated curriculum materials from the High School that are not going to be moved to the new High School. Mrs. Mostoller said if any materials are not purchased by the book buyer, they could be donated to the Booksavers organization in Ephrata, PA as has been done in the past. Dr. Suski commented that she received an email from a Middle School teacher (Mrs. Susan Davis) today asking if consideration could be made to donate any unsold materials to a different organization that also accepts donated materials. The committee recommended that the proposal to sell outdated materials and donate any unsold items to the organization suggested by Mrs. Davis be moved to the Board agenda for approval.

Agreements

Action Item – Educational Services Agreement: Dr. Suski reviewed an agreement with NHS Pennsylvania Schools to provide educational services for a special education student for the remainder of the 2015-2016 school year at the autism education rates. The committee recommended that the agreement be moved to the Board agenda for approval.

Policies

Discussion Item – Review of Naloxone Policy: Dr. Suski said that a draft of a new policy developed by the solicitor for administration of Naloxone in schools is attached to the agenda. Dr. Suski provided background information as to why the policy is being proposed. Dr. Suski said that a letter was sent to superintendents in the fall from the Secretary of Education encouraging schools to consider having Naloxone on site to respond to a possible drug overdose situation. Dr. Suski reviewed the October 2015 committee discussion in which two Board members had indicated that they would want Naloxone to be available in the schools; thus, the committee had asked Dr. Suski to consult with the District solicitor. Dr. Suski said that since PSBA did not develop a model policy for consideration by school districts, the District solicitor drafted a policy for the Board's review. Dr. Suski said that one of the solicitor's clients (Warwick SD) has already adopted the policy. Dr. Suski also said that some other clients of the solicitor are considering policy adoption. Dr. Vollmar, the District's School Physician, expressed concerns about adoption of a policy for the administration of Naloxone. Dr. Vollmar reviewed a PowerPoint presentation. Dr. Vollmar showed statistics regarding opioid overdoses, noting that the age range for most overdoses is typically beyond the age of students in a school district. Dr. Vollmar noted that any use of opioid drugs by students

of school age typically would occur outside of the school day. Dr. Vollmar reviewed several slides stating facts and myths about Naloxone. Dr. Vollmar said that Naloxone does not reverse an opioid overdose. Dr. Vollmar said that as Naloxone wears off, the heroin based drugs will start to work again. Dr. Vollmar said that none of the other schools that he works with have had issues in the school leading them to adopt a similar policy. Dr. Vollmar expressed concern with the impact upon the school nurses if the policy is adopted because of the potential violent nature of someone after Naloxone would wear off. Dr. Vollmar said that he believes that Naloxone is a good drug, but the school may not be the appropriate place for the drug to be administered. Dr. Vollmar said that emergency personnel would carry the drug and administration of the drug in their presence would be a much better situation. Dr. Vollmar expressed concern that healthcare providers generally do not fall under the Good Samaritan standard and said that he believes that the extension of the Good Samaritan standard to healthcare providers (as has been noted will occur) for the administration of Naloxone will likely be legally challenged in the future. Dr. Suski said that she spoke with the District solicitor regarding Dr. Vollmar's concerns and said that the solicitor agrees with the information that Dr. Vollmar presented except that he does not believe that the Good Samaritan standard would be challenged. Dr. Suski said that initially school districts were told that the Physician General had signed standing orders that would cover school districts, but Dr. Suski said that the solicitor believes that the District's School Physician must sign the standing orders. Dr. Suski said that she was notified that Dr. Vollmar was not in support of signing the standing orders due to his concerns. Dr. Suski said that the District has physicians for the athletic program and perhaps they would sign the standing orders. Dr. Vollmar said that he doubts that Penn State Hershey (sports physicians) would sign either. Mrs. Neuschwander expressed her own concerns regarding the administration of the drug based upon her understanding of what a person is like when coming out of an opioid overdose. Mrs. Mehaffie asked whether there would be concern with having a policy that indicates that the administration of the drug would not occur unless another healthcare provider is present. Dr. Vollmar said that would mean that emergency personnel would be present and they would have their own Naloxone, so it would not be necessary for the drug to be maintained on site. Ms. Dondero said that she agrees with some of the information that was presented by Dr. Vollmar, but believes that the violent nature of people in an overdose situation is overstated. Ms. Dondero commented that while opioid overdose may not be a problem in the School District, it should not be necessary for numerous people to be impacted as one life saved should be enough. Ms. Dondero said that any person is able to administer Naloxone and can carry it, but that she believes that an employee would rather have the protection of a School Board policy. Mr. John asked about the organizations mentioned by Ms. Dondero expressing support for school districts to adopt policies for the administration of Naloxone. Ms. Dondero said that the School Nurse Association and the Pennsylvania Medical Society are supportive of school districts adopting a policy regarding the administration of Naloxone. Dr. Vollmar commented that the other school districts that he serves are saying

that they are not interested in adopting this policy because of the concern expressed by their own nursing staff. Mr. John suggested that the policy be tabled based upon the input provided by the School Physician and the District's nurses. Mr. Gilman asked what the School Physician and the nurses would say if an overdose occurred and we did not have the Naloxone present and a student died. Mr. Gilman asked if the District would be exposed to any liability. The nurses said that they would respond that they provided the normal care that they would always provide using the resources available and stated that not all life saving devices that exist are present in the School District. Dr. Suski said that liability should not be any different for the administration of Naloxone than the possible misuse of an AED unit; however, the nurses expressed that they would not know for certain if a student had overdosed on an opioid while the misuse of an AED unit is unlikely because the machine walks someone through the process. Dr. Suski said that the drafted policy does not prohibit emergency personnel from administering Naloxone, but she has become aware that some emergency personnel may not carry the drug. Dr. Suski said that if Dr. Vollmar is not willing to sign a standing order then the discussion about adopting the policy may be a moot point. Dr. Vollmar said that he would not stand in the way of the Board's desire to adopt the policy, but he does not agree with the exposure placed on the nurses. Mr. Gilman said that he would feel better if we knew if the School Resource Officer and the emergency personnel are carrying the drug and are permitted to administer it. The committee agreed to table the policy until the March committee meeting when additional information can be obtained in response to the questions that were raised.

Programs

Information Item – Summer Programs: Mrs. Mostoller reviewed the dates planned for the following summer programs – Title I reading program, Extended School Year instruction for special education students, Middle School summer school program, and Elementary English as a Second Language instructional program. Mrs. Mostoller explained how the various programs are funded.

Contracts

Action Item – Pre-Prom Assembly: Dr. Suski reviewed the contract with UNITE Corporation to provide pre-prom assembly activities on May 12, 2016 at a cost of \$2,500. The committee recommended that the contract be moved to the Board agenda for approval.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.