

**SHAMOKIN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE and EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

September 11, 2020

The Shamokin Area School Board Curriculum Committee and Education Committee met jointly on Friday, September 11, 2020, in the board conference room. The meeting began at 1:45pm. In attendance were committee members Laura Scandle (Curriculum Committee Chairman), Erik Anderson (Education Committee Chairman) and Rosalie Smoogen.

Others present included: Chris J. Venna, Superintendent.

Mr. Venna started out by sharing reports from both building principals that the start of the school year is going well. He said that 55-60% of the student population is reporting to school. Mr. Anderson asked if we are gaining or losing students. Mr. Venna shared that we are losing students to outside cyber schools. He can only speculate why but he feels it's because our teachers hold the students accountable. He will hold discussion with the Administrative Team on what can be done to prevent this from happening. A message will also go out on social media to families encouraging parents to look at our other options available.

Moving on, he then shared there are some concerns from teachers with the new expectations. Grades kindergarten through four seem to be the group with the biggest challenges. He will be compiling a list and would like to sit down with SAEA and the individuals to see what can be done to help. He discussed some of his ideas with the committee members, and also shared what other districts are implementing. The committee members also shared some of their ideas.

Next there was some discussion on hybrid learning. It is felt that we have been already doing hybrid learning.

Thereafter, there was small conversations about several topics including increasing rigorous instruction and how subbing for absent teachers has been handled in both buildings.

Mrs. Scandle next questioned the community service requirement to graduate. Mr. Venna stated that it is still written in the policy, however it is no longer a requirement by the state. Some parents are not aware of this requirement. The committee did speak about this and how it is conveyed to the students and parents.

Mrs. Smoogen questioned if students could volunteer for things like grounds work. She had a complaint from someone that there is an area not being up kept. Mr. Venna responded that it would need to be verified with the union that it wouldn't be an issue because it could be seen as taking work away from somebody.

Mr. Anderson brought up that AP teachers were asking about scheduling double periods. Mr. Venna explained how and why it was done in the past. It's difficult to schedule them because they are not needed all year so it was always worked out between the teachers in the past. This and more discussion took place about the AP classes offered.

Mrs. Scandle wanted to know why the Alert Now system only allows one phone number per household. No reason was known. She asked that it be looked into.

Mrs. Scandle also commented with Mrs. Komara's retirement she didn't want things to go by the wayside. It was conversed that once she is hired contractually, she will be around to make sure that wouldn't happen.

While the meeting was taking place, Mr. Venna messaged Ben Anderson concerning the Alert Now system, who responded that more than one phone number could be added but it has to be done manually.

Lastly, Mrs. Scandle asked about SAT testing. Mr. Venna believes that one is scheduled for September 26, but with the pandemic wasn't positive it was going to happen. Mrs. Scandle shared that Line Mountain was notified that they could offer a test to their students only during the school day. Mr. Venna was pleased to hear that and will reach out to our contact to see if it's possible for Shamokin as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Scandle, Curriculum Chair

Erik S. Anderson, Education Chair