

**LEBANON BOARD OF EDUCATION
STRATEGIC PLAN/CURRICULUM SUBCOMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE
OCTOBER 21, 2020 – 6:00 PM**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Danelle Person, sub-committee chair, John Konow, Nicole McGillicuddy, Maureen McCall and Sarah Haynes, BOE chair

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Robert Angeli, Jay Apicelli, LMHS Principal, Robert Laskarzewski, LMS Principal and Rita Quiles-Glover, LES Principal and teachers, Kathleen Smith and Jeannette Picard

I. Call To Order

D. Person called the meeting to order at 6:00P.M.

II. Update and discussion of Curriculum Director vacancy

Discussion on the various ways that curriculum could be handled at various school levels (assistant superintendent, shared responsibility, curriculum specialist). Superintendent Angeli pointed out that the curriculum director wears many hats. Besides focusing on curriculum, this position handles the selection of books, novels used for ELA and Social Studies, assists with finding online resources, runs the new teacher orientation, PD, facilitates central office support for accreditation at LES and LMHS, and handles the various grant requests. Superintendent Angeli said that having a curriculum director for the Lebanon School District has been the most successful alternative and the three principals agreed that especially during the present situation with COVID-19, the additional aide a curriculum director gives is greatly appreciated. The subcommittee members appreciated the in-depth discussion and supported their position.

III. Discuss Effects of COVID-19 Academic Year 2019-2020 Curriculum and Benchmarks for each school

The State assessment system had been sidelined and there were no State accountability measures to adhere to. There was little to no impact on college acceptance and while some struggled, other students thrived in distance learning. There were lapses at all levels but Mr. Laskarzewski discovered guidelines stating that they should stick to the curriculum and address gaps as they arise. Testing will bring issues to light and efforts are being made to proctor distance learning through this testing.

IV. Discuss Effects of COVID-19 on Fall 2020 Hybrid and Distance Learning Students at each school

Discussion on how teachers are managing courses such as PE where there could be crowding constraints and the issue of distance learners in various courses where projects/experiments would normally be done in the classroom environment. It has been all-hands-on-deck for the staff including custodial staff to accommodate distance learners. More kits have been purchased by shifting money for budgeted items and more supplies and packets have been bought to be picked up by parents so that distance learners are doing the same classwork as those in-house, and any other thing they can think of to accommodate all involved. Teachers can still deliver but are just doing it differently and

thinking outside the box. This can be an exhausting process but this team effort is working and they are learning as they go forward.

V. Update of New Courses Offered: Weight Lifting/Resistance Training, Manufacturing and Workplace Learning

- Weight Lifting/Resistance Training – Principal Apicelli said that more signed up than they originally expected.
- Manufacturing – Nine students have signed up. This gives them Three Rivers college credits. *Tool-U* app purchased to supplement the course and an OSHA course on safety requirements was added, giving them more teaching hours that they will need for Three Rivers.
- Workplace Learning – Not enough signed up so not being given.
- Journalism questioned – Little interest in the last two years and not offered.

VI. Update On Any Requirements from the CSDE

Smarter Balance, SAT and PE Assessments tests will be held. Administration will do its best to prepare the students for these. The State has asked for social and emotional focus but Federal is focused on academics. Superintendent Angeli noted that the district had already been focused on SEL with such things as *Restorative Practices* and the *Suicide Prevention Grant* and these will be ramped up. The new SEL committee is very active. It was noted that we should not forget SEL for adults as well as this is a stressful time for the entire district staff. Nicole said that she did a walk-through on all three schools and is very impressed with all that has been done to facilitate learning under COVID-19 – many kudos!

Superintendent Angeli commented on his last release regarding the most current guidelines as to when school district switch to hybrid or fully distance learning. If the numbers tick up, Lebanon will consider moving to hybrid or distance learning.

VII. Sequencing of Curriculum for Current Events

Danelle noted that we are in an election year and with so much going on in the news, there are many teachable moments. Are the teachers bringing those into discussion in line with their class work? All three principals assured the committee that this was being done. Superintendent Angeli noted that it is a perfect time for students to learn to listen to opposing opinions and to have respectful discussions instead of arguments.

VIII. Adjournment

D. Person adjourned the meeting at 7:35.

Submitted by
Maureen McCall, Secretary