

## WELLSBORO AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

November 17, 2015

3:45 PM OLD BAND ROOM

Start Time: 3:45

Present: Tina Kreisler, Ben Miller, Ben Largey, Michael Pietropola, Mary Peropat, Shane Mascho, Tammy Knowlton, Bryan Murphy, Debby Patterson, John Peropat, Penny Button, Robert Kreger, Steve Adams, Chris Morral, Pat Hewitt

Opening Public Comment

None

Agenda Items:

- Wellsboro Online Academy (WOA) and SPP scores
- Proposal for Dual Enrollment course- Emergency Medical Responder with Penn College and possibility of expansion of other Dual Enrollment courses with Penn College
- AP Chemistry progress
- Other

Committee Member /Administration Issues or Discussion Topics

Dr. Largey started the meeting with information on how the Wellsboro Online Academy's students impact our SPP and PVAAS scores. The online students' achievement and growth scores on the PSSAs or Keystones do impact the teacher of records PVAAS score if they are a Wellsboro student. We do have agreements with other school districts (Galeton and Canton currently) to teach their students through our Online Academy; their students do not get counted toward a teacher's PVAAS ratings. Dr. Largey emphasized that even though it is a different educational venue, there are technology related measures available to help a teacher provide ample opportunities to help a student be successful.

Mr. Kreger brought up a proposal for a new Emergency Medical Responder course he would like offered. The course will be offered with Penn College as a Dual Enrollment course for students 16 years old and older who are interested in pursuing certification as EMTs, Paramedics, or first responders. They will receive .25 elective high school credit through Wellsboro and 3 college credits through Penn College for the approximately 50 hour course. The County will help participants of the course defer 75% of the outside costs for the costs of the course.

A motion was made to accept the proposal for the new course by Mr. Morral, Mr. Peropat accepted the motion and Mrs. Knowlton seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all present were in approval.

To go along with the approval of the course is the agreement to enter into a Dual Enrollment program between Penn College and Wellsboro Area School District. Mr. Hewitt had examples of the agreement for the members of the Council to review and went over key points. There is a \$200 intent fee paid yearly as well as a charge to the District based on the number of courses being taught from the prior year. Students do not pay a tuition fee. There could be other fees related to a course the students could be responsible for such as the EMR course mentioned earlier. Wellsboro high school teachers would be the teachers of the course approved through Penn College, the course content

could be Wellsboro's if it met the same criteria as Penn College's or our teachers could use Penn College's courses and teach them to our students. Students would receive our typical credit and 3 credits for Penn College if a student was successful in the course, however, Penn College liaison instructors would provide a final exam and grade it and grades for the Penn College transcript would follow Penn College guidelines, the grade for Wellsboro could follow our guidelines. In most courses, eligible students would be juniors or seniors, they would have to pass Penn College's Reading Entrance Exam and possibly Math Exam. Course and teacher approval as well as student registration and testing would occur in the spring of the prior year to offering the course. Textbooks are the responsibility of the District.

A motion to pursue the Dual Enrollment with Penn College was made by Mr. Morral, accepted by Mrs. Knowlton and seconded by Mrs. Peropat. All members present voted in approval of the motion.

The progress on the addition of an AP Chemistry course for the 2016-17 school year at the high school was discussed as well as changes to the Valedictorian and Salutatorian criteria if the course is in place. Changes in science offerings were put in place this year to make it easier for potential AP Chemistry students to make room in their schedules as seniors. Students who were Proficient or Advanced as 8<sup>th</sup> graders on the Keystone Algebra 1 Exam and who were interested in accelerating their science education were offered the opportunity to take CP Biology as 9<sup>th</sup> graders along with being placed in an Honors section of Algebra 2. The move accelerates their science and math opportunities together and will ensure they have the math background to go with the advanced science courses as they progress through the curriculum. These students are bypassing the 9 Science course usually taken in 9<sup>th</sup> grade that lays the groundwork for some Biology and Ecology concepts to help students be better prepared for the 10<sup>th</sup> grade Biology class and Keystone Biology Exam. Incorporating the class in the 16-17 sy. will not necessarily involve these students. Mrs. Getty attended the AP Chemistry workshop over the past summer. Adjustments will have to be made to her schedule in order to create room for a lab period that must be included with the AP Chemistry course. The guidance office believes this can be accomplished by changing the two sections of Advanced Chemistry offered to approximately 20 seniors, to one section of AP Chemistry with the lab. Changes to the Salutatorian/Valedictorian criteria will include the addition of students having to take Honors Physics **or AP Chemistry** in order to be eligible for the honor. Mrs. Getty will develop a course syllabus and use the Textbook Adoption Policy to bring a textbook to Curriculum Council for approval at the next meeting.

Mr. Morral mentioned the high school's SPP score for the 14-15 school year was the highest score in the I.U., congratulating all the teachers emphasizing the work of everyone K-12. Mr. Pietropola also mentioned how the PSSA growth scores for the Rock L. Butler middle school in all three areas, ELA, Math and Science were consistently in the top of the I.U. scores for the 14-15 school year.

Mr. Murphy updated the Council on the wireless issues; stating the new switches put in the Don Gill and Charlotte Lappla seemed to have helped some, but there still seems to be other issues that are causing the interruptions.

We also thanked Mr. Peropat for his service on the Curriculum Council over the years, his efforts to help make the Wellsboro Area School District better have been appreciated.

Meeting was adjourned @ 4:45PM