The School District of the City of York, Pennsylvania
Superintendent of Schools
"Together Everyone Achieves More"

March 9, 2011

MEMO TO: Samuel Beard, President
Board of School Directors

MEMO FROM: Dr. Eric B. Holmes

SUBJECT: Proposed Educational Program Alterations and Curtailments for the 2011-2012 School Year

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The following is a list of proposed alterations and curtailments of existing educational programs that I am recommending to the Board of School Directors. Each subject area alteration will have to be approved by the Board as a resolution at the March 2011 voting meeting. The District will continue to hold all staff accountable to teaching to the state standards and will conduct regular assessments. Professional development will be offered to all staff who will assume teaching responsibilities in those subject areas being curtailed. A resource library will also be made available at each building within the district.

Elementary Kindergarten- Thirteen (13) teaching positions are divided between six buildings.

Our current kindergarten configuration at the elementary level allows for students to receive services for the entire day. We are recommending that the current level of services be reduced. Students will now attend kindergarten for a half day. This reduction in kindergarten services will allow the School District to minimize the class size increases at the elementary level. The District is not required by the Commonwealth to provide kindergarten services. Therefore, any alterations or curtailments of services enacted by the District will allow the District to fulfill regular elementary education services required by law.

Elementary Music- Three (3) teaching positions are divided between six buildings.

- Only one of our six elementary schools made progress on the 2010 PSSA. Our elementary schools have been struggling to meet AYP for several years. In order to increase the number of hours elementary school students are assigned instruction in core math, reading, science and social studies curriculum, we will eliminate a stand-alone music class and replace it with additional core subject instruction. The regular elementary education teacher will provide music instruction to the class as part of an instructional unit within another course or as an interdisciplinary instructional activity. According to CSPG no. 41 Instructional Area Code 2810, all elementary certified staff members are able to provide music instruction. Instrumental music lessons will not be affected by this program curtailment.

Elementary Physical Education- Three (3) teaching positions are divided between six buildings.

- Only one of our six elementary schools made progress on the 2010 PSSA. Our elementary schools have been struggling to meet AYP for several years. In order to increase the number of hours elementary school students are assigned instruction in core math, reading, science and social studies curriculum, we will eliminate a stand-alone physical education class and replace it with additional core subject instruction. The regular elementary education teacher will provide physical education instruction to the class as part of an instructional unit within another course or as an interdisciplinary instructional activity. According to CSPG no. 41 Instructional Area Code 2810 all elementary certified staff members are able to provide physical education instruction.

Elementary Art Education- Three (3) teaching positions are divided between six buildings.

- Only one of our six elementary schools made progress on the 2010 PSSA. Our elementary schools have been struggling to meet AYP for several years. In order to increase the number of hours elementary school students are assigned instruction in core math, reading, science and social studies curriculum, we will eliminate a stand-alone art class and replace it with additional core subject instruction. The regular elementary education teacher will provide art instruction to the class as part of an instructional unit within another course or as an interdisciplinary instructional activity. According to CSPG no. 41 Instructional Area Code 2810 all elementary certified staff members are able to provide art instruction.

Elementary Library Education- Three (3) teaching positions are divided between six buildings.

- Only one of our six elementary schools made progress on the 2010 PSSA. Our elementary schools have been struggling to meet AYP for several years. In order to increase the number of hours elementary school students are assigned instruction in core math, reading, science and social studies curriculum, we will eliminate a stand-alone library class and replace it with additional core subject instruction. This current class provides instruction in research skills to elementary students. Our libraries also have aides who manage the day to day book circulation process. They will remain in place in order to carry out those clerical tasks. The regular elementary education teacher will provide instruction in research skills to the class as part of an instructional unit within another course or as an interdisciplinary instructional activity. All elementary certified staff members are able to provide instruction in writing a research paper and in utilizing various methods of research including computer research.

Elementary Guidance Counselors-Six (6) counselors are assigned to the six (6) elementary buildings throughout the district.

- While the elementary schools have struggled to make AYP, they have been successful in moving students through the system. We are finding that the elementary guidance counselors, as opposed to the secondary guidance counselors are not critical to our goals of attaining AYP. The regular elementary education teacher will continue to promote academic success among the elementary population and will provide sufficient support for student growth and development. Of course, to the degree that a student requires special services or attention, the District will provide such services as may be required through special education and psychological services.

At-Risk Coordinators (Guidance Counselor Certified) - Three (3) At-Risk Coordinator positions are assigned to the elementary level, middle level and secondary level throughout the district.

- This local position was created five years ago in order to provide services to at-risk students. These positions were designed to offer additional assistance to the current guidance counselor staff throughout the district. In that the position requires guidance certification, we believe that this represents a duplication of resources. The tasks performed by the At-Risk Coordinators will be carried out by the current guidance staff, as they were prior to the creation of these additional positions.

Family and Consumer Science - Four (4) teaching positions are divided between two middle schools and one high school.

- None of our secondary schools made adequate yearly progress on the 2010 PSSA. All three secondary schools are in Corrective Action II (year 4) status according the NCLB guidelines. In order to increase the number of hours secondary school students are assigned instruction in core math and reading classes, the district will be eliminating some related arts courses and replacing them with an additional math and an additional language arts course for secondary students. Principles of consumer behavior will be taught as a unit of social studies in grade seven, grade eight, and grade nine. Child health care skills will be taught as a unit in health classes in grade seven, grade eight, and grade nine.

Technology Education- Three (3) teaching positions are divided between two middle schools and one high school.

- None of our secondary schools made adequate yearly progress on the 2010 PSSA. All three secondary schools are in Corrective Action II (year 4) status according the NCLB guidelines. In order to increase the number of hours secondary school students are assigned instruction in core math and reading classes, the district will be eliminating some related arts courses and replacing them with an additional math and an additional language arts course for secondary students. Practical application of academic skills and problem solving experiences facilitated by technology will be taught as a social studies unit in grade seven, and grade nine, and as a science unit in grade eight.

Computer Keyboarding- Two (2) teaching positions exist, one at each middle school.

- None of our secondary schools made adequate yearly progress on the 2010 PSSA. All three secondary schools are in Corrective Action II (year 4) status according the NCLB guidelines. In order to increase the number of hours secondary school students are assigned instruction in core math and reading classes, the district will be eliminating some related arts courses and replacing them with an additional math and an additional language arts course for secondary students. Computer research and keyboarding skills can be taught as a unit in library skills at the middle school level.

Character Education- Four (4) teaching positions exist, one at each secondary school.

- The purpose of the Character Education program is to offer an alternative to traditional discipline consequences such as internal suspension. A teacher is assigned to each Character Education room, and they deliver the curriculum to those students who are having discipline issues. Portions of the program can be delivered by individual teachers assigned to the internal suspension room on a rotating basis. A full time position is not necessary and through creative scheduling, redundant services can be curtailed.

Reading First Literacy Coaches- Six (6) teaching positions exist, one at each elementary school.

- The purpose of the Reading First Literacy Coaches was to offer professional development to teaching staff in order to improve language arts instruction. These individuals do not work directly or indirectly with students. They only work with staff. We believe that these resources can be better utilized in a classroom setting.

Eric B. Holmes, Ed. D.
Acting Superintendent

cc: Board of School Directors

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the Board of School Directors of the School District of the City of York (Board) knows that its primary goal is to increase the academic performance of its students and provide a quality education to and for its students; and

Whereas, the No Child Left Behind Act and the laws and regulations of and by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Department of Education mandate that students increase their level of academic performance; and

Whereas, the Board has determined that increased academic time for its student in the elementary level will help increase the academic performance of its students at the elementary level; and

Whereas, the School District is striving to increase the number of hours its elementary school students spend in content areas of reading and math; and

Whereas, the School District will provide its elementary school professional staff with researched based strategies to increase the reading comprehension and math skills of its elementary school students; and

Whereas, the Superintendent has recommended to the Board that the specific courses of art, music, and physical education at the elementary schools level be eliminated and that art, music and physical education instruction can be provided to the elementary school students as an instructional unit within another course or other interdisciplinary instructional activity in the elementary schools; and

Whereas, the Superintendent has recommended to the Board that the specific programs of elementary guidance, elementary reading coaches, elementary math coaches, and elementary librarians be eliminated and that the resources be diverted to the content areas of reading and math; and

Whereas, the Superintendent has recommended to the Board that the specific program of full day Kindergarten by altered and replaced by a half day kindergarten program that will conform to all Pennsylvania Department of Education regulations; and

Whereas, the Board, after much consideration and deliberation, has decided to accept the Superintendent's recommendation.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board of School Directors of the School District of the City of York hereby eliminates, at lest temporarily, the specific courses of art, music and physical education in the School District's elementary schools.

Resolved further that the Board of School Directors of the School District of the City of York hereby eliminates, at least temporarily, the specific programs of full day elementary

kindergarten, elementary guidance, elementary reading coaches, elementary math coaches, and elementary librarians.

Resolved further that the School District's elementary school students receive art, music and physical education instruction as part of an instructional unit within another course or other interdisciplinary instructional activity in the elementary schools.

Resolved further that the Board requests the Pennsylvania Department of Education to approve, if such approval is necessary, the elimination of the School District's specific courses of art, music, and physical education at the elementary schools level provided that art, music, and physical education instruction is provided to the elementary school students as an instructional unit within another course or other interdisciplinary instructional activity.

Resolved further that the Board requests the Pennsylvania Department of Education to approve, if such approval is necessary, the elimination of the School District's specific programs of elementary guidance, elementary reading coaches, elementary math coaches, and elementary librarians.

Resolved further that the Board requests the Pennsylvania Department of Education to approve, if such approval is necessary, the elimination of the full day elementary kindergarten program which will be replaced with a half day kindergarten program.

Resolved this _____ day of _____, 2011, by the Board

Board of School Directors of the School District of the City of York by a vote of

_____in favor, _____against, and _____abstention(s).

RESOLUTION

Whereas, the Board of School Directors of the School District of the City of York (Board) knows that its primary goal is to increase the academic performance of its students and provide a quality education to and for its students; and

Whereas, the No Child Left Behind Act and the laws and regulations of and by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Department of Education mandate that students increase their level of academic performance; and

Whereas, the Board has determined that increased academic time for its student in the secondary level will help increase the academic performance of its students at the secondary level; and

Whereas, the School District is striving to increase the number of hours its secondary school students spend in content areas of reading and math; and

Whereas, the School District will provide its secondary school professional staff with researched based strategies to increase the reading comprehension and math skills of its secondary school students; and

Whereas, the Superintendent has recommended to the Board that the specific courses of home economics, industrial arts, computer keyboarding and character education at the secondary schools level be eliminated and that instruction in those courses can be provided to the secondary school students as an instructional unit within another course or other interdisciplinary instructional activity in the secondary schools; and

Whereas, the Superintendent has recommended to the Board that the specific programs of at-risk coordinators (guidance certified) be eliminated that the program of social workers be altered, and that the resources be diverted to the content areas of reading and math; and

Whereas, the Board, after much consideration and deliberation, has decided to accept the Superintendent's recommendation.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board of School Directors of the School District of the City of York hereby eliminates, at least temporarily, the specific courses of home economics, industrial arts, computer keyboarding and character education in the School District's secondary schools.

Resolved further that the Board of School Directors of the School District of the City of York hereby eliminates, at least temporarily, the specific programs of at-risk coordinators (guidance certified) and alters the program of social workers

Resolved further that the School District's secondary school students receive home economics, industrial arts, computer keyboarding and character education instruction as

part of an instructional unit within another course or other interdisciplinary instructional activity in the secondary schools.

Resolved further that the Board requests the Pennsylvania Department of Education to approve, if such approval is necessary, the elimination of the School District's specific courses of home economics, industrial arts, computer keyboarding and character education at the secondary schools level provided that home economics, industrial arts, computer keyboarding and character education instruction is provided to the secondary school students as an instructional unit within another course or other interdisciplinary instructional activity.

Resolved further that the Board requests the Pennsylvania Department of Education to approve, if such approval is necessary, the elimination of the School District's specific programs of at-risk coordinators (guidance certified) and alters the program of social workers

Resolved this _____ day of _____, 2011, by the Board

Board of School Directors of the School District of the City of York by a vote of

_____in favor, _____against, and _____abstention(s).