



Twinsburg City School District
Curriculum/Technology Committee Meeting
October 7, 2019 6:00-7:30 PM
R.B. Chamberlin Middle School Dome

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Role of the District Curriculum/Technology Committee, **Jennifer Farthing**, Director of Curriculum
 - A sub-committee of the BOE consisting of parents, teachers, BOE members, community members, and administration
 - Evaluated and piloted materials are presented; once approved, they are recommended to the Board for final approval, followed by professional development for teachers and implementation
 - Meetings are held four times during the year
3. Role of the District Curriculum Supervisor, **Norm Potter**
 - The Academy at Twinsburg High School
 - Testing
 - College and Career
 - Teacher training
 - Federal grants
 - Data analysis
4. District Curriculum Updates
 - Summer Reading Camp – Gr. K-4; approximately 120 students participated; small group instruction (5-6 in a class); 3-week program designed to ease help boost reading skills
 - KPP update
 - Chromebook Initiative – high school complete, RBC cart complete; next year Dodge rollout
 - Professional Development focus for teachers providing gifted services
 - Project Lead The Way (PLTW) update: year 3; THS has Principals of Engineering (POE); goal is to increase classes and enrollment
 - October 9 – Curriculum Day; conference-style sessions: Google Track, Productivity Tools, Social Emotional Learning,
 - All sophomores will take Pre-ACT, all juniors will take the PSAT on National Assessment Day, Oct. 16
 - Strategic Plan had its first report-out: 21st Century Teaching & Learning, Communications, and Finance; next report-out (Safety, Facilities, and Culture & Climate) is October 15, 7 pm at THS – LGI.

5. Continuous Improvement Plans for Reading, Mathematics, and PBIS.
- Twinsburg City School District: **Jennifer Farthing** with the support of the Leadership Team: **Lynn Villa, Misty Johnson, Reggie Holland, Jim Ries, Laura Hebert, and Denise Traphagen**

Depth of Knowledge (DOK) Vertical Alignment, **Norm Potter**

- CIP – designed to help buildings and district determine areas to work on during the year
- Local Report Card – a snapshot of the entire year. Goal to increase DOK (Depth of Knowledge) – deeper in content, not as much surface learning
- DOK – builds upon learned knowledge each year
- DOK applied to all levels; deeper knowledge and understanding and ability to apply learning
- Enhance instructional practices

6. Adoption of two titles: *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri and *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston for English 10 Honors course reading list. **Liz Teeter**, Twinsburg High School English Teacher.

The Namesake:

- Focus – protagonist struggles with identity (name)
- Time period 1968-2000's
- Expose students to class, gender, race, diversity
- College Board approved text

Their Eyes Were Watching God:

- Choice reading choice to work alongside Great Gatsby
- Provides a female protagonist perspective (Great Gatsby is a male perspective)
- Time period 1915-1930's
- Focus – protagonist struggles with identity
- African American perspective
- Folklore and idiom culture of the time period
- College Board approved text

The Committee voted unanimously to present both titles to the Board for approval.

7. Adoption of *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas for English 10 course reading list. **Megan Holzheimer** and **James Dianetti**, Twinsburg High School Teachers.

- Provides diversity – author is female and African American
- *Huck Finn* will be used in conjunction with this
- Relatable and relevant to today's society
- Focus – protagonist struggles with identity and standing up for what is right
- African American perspective
- Contemporary coming-of-age story, c2017

The Committee voted unanimously to present it to the Board for approval.

8. Adoption of a *serial podcast (scrubbed version – free resource)* for English 10 course. **Megan Holzheimer.**

- Piloted last year
- 12-episode documentary
- Students of diverse background
- Unique approach to non-fiction
- Students will track evidence and build case for final argumentative essay
- Good for students who struggle with reading

The Committee voted unanimously to present it to the Board for approval.

9. Academy update, **Norm Potter**

- Third year of implementation
- Provides opportunities for students to see, connect, and acquire post-high school skills
- Twin Talks held monthly
- Working on:
 - Job fairs
 - Real-world experience
 - Finalizing interviews
 - Stronger partnership with CVCC
 - Expanding summer opportunities
- More information available online on the THS webpage

10. “Save the Date” – potential meeting on December 9, 2019 beginning at 6 pm.

- An email will be sent either way regarding this possible meeting

11. Adjourn

Future topics: Federal Grant update, English Language Arts, Technology update

Upcoming Meetings: February 10, 2020 ~ April 6, 2020 ~ June 8, 2020

Please contact me with questions, ideas, or concerns:

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Thank you for your participation!

