

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes June 10, 2013

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, June 10, 2013 in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Curriculum Committee Chairman Mel Brodsky. Present were Board Vice-President, Mrs. Susan Moore; Board Members: Leslie Finegold, Christina Frangiosa, Kathleen Oxberry, Heather Palmer, Beth Suchsland; Superintendent, Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer; Director of Special Education and Pupil Services, Karen Berk; Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Dr. Liz McKeaney; Curriculum Supervisors: Sergio Anaya, Kathleen Hamill and Maria Wileczek; Colonial Middle School Principal, Robert Fahler; community members Linda Doll, Joanne Walker, Donna Harris, Ellen Miller; and Marge Gramlich and Nancy Aiken.

Public Comments: There were no public comments on the agenda.

Dr. McKeaney introduced and welcomed Nancy Aiken as her new administrative assistant. Nancy will be replacing Marge Gramlich who will be retiring shortly. Dr. McKeaney thanked Marge and wished her well.

Gifted: Karen Berk discussed Chapter 16 of the Pennsylvania Public School Code relating to guidelines for gifted programming and noted that we are obligated by law to provide screening for giftedness. CSD conducts screenings and evaluations to identify students who are gifted and in need of specially designed instruction. Universal screening of all students takes place in 2nd grade using SAGES-2 testing. Mrs. Berk explained that multiple criteria is used to determine giftedness, which include, rate of acquisition and retention, early and measured use of high level thinking skills, academic creativity, leadership skills, communications skills, foreign language aptitude or technology expertise.

Mrs. Berk indicated that students scoring high on screening will be tested further. Parents may also make requests to their child's guidance counselor for an evaluation. For developmental reasons, identification of students as gifted is not encouraged prior to second grade. Parents who wish to have their child evaluated prior to second grade should discuss their concerns with the guidance counselor. Determination of mentally gifted must include an assessment by a certified school psychologist.

Dr. McKeaney discussed K-12 Gifted Support Services which are tailored to students' individual academic strengths based on their initial Gifted Evaluation and on subsequent performance data. She discussed the in-class and out-of-class services for students identified as gifted.

Maria Wileczek discussed enrichment opportunity provided to 3rd grade gifted students and PWHS Writing Fellows called FLIGHT night.

Kathleen Hamill discussed reading enrichment and discourse structures such as literature circles in grades 4-5 and book discussions in grades K-3.

CMS Principal, Robert Fahler, discussed English, Math and Science enrichment opportunities for gifted middle school students which take place during unified arts classes.

Overall, sample enrichment opportunities include co-teaching with differentiated instruction within the classroom, enriched curricular projects focused on engaging students in higher level thinking, communication, critical and creative thinking and decision making around inquiry and content-related themes such as Math Olympiad and Robotics.

Parent Involvement Policy: Ms. Hamill presented a combined school based policy for Title I and Title II on a first read basis.

Informational Updates:

- **Federal Programs:** Ms. Hamill, Federal Programs Coordinator reported a decrease in Federal Funding due to sequestration.

Conference Requests: A conference request was reviewed for CES Principal Mrs. Terese Boegly and CES Assistant Principal, Mr. Jared Gamble to attend a conference on NAESP-National Association of Elementary School Principals from July 10-12, 2013 in Baltimore, MD. A second conference request was presented for Dr. Liz McKeaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment to attend the ASCD Conference on Teaching Excellence from June 26-28, 2013 in National Harbor, MD. Consensus was given to present these requests at the Colonial Board of School Directors Meeting on June 20, 2013.

Public Comment: There were no public comments at this time.

Discussion Items: There was a comment from a concerned parent regarding music staffing and course selection. Dr. Gorodetzer explained the circumstances prompting the change.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Aiken
Administrative Assistant to the Director of
Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment