

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes September 15, 2014

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, September 15, 2014 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 President, Susan Moore; Vice-President, Beth Suchsland; Board Members: Leslie Finegold, Heather Palmer, Kathleen Oxberry; Superintendent, Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer; Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Dr. Liz McKeaney; Curriculum Supervisors: Dr. Katy Giovanisci and Mr. Sergio Anaya; Curriculum Coordinator, Gina Nelson; Community Member, Linda Doll and Nancy Aiken.

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

Curriculum Committee Chairman Mel Brodsky opened the meeting asking for any public comments and there were none. Dr. McKeaney then welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Preliminary Annual School Achievement Report

Dr. Liz McKeaney provided a Preliminary Data Report and shared highlights of student performance on state and national assessments which included: Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA); Keystone Exams; and Advanced Placement Scholars. She acknowledged that the five year trend of high student achievement levels is a direct reflection of the collaboration and hard work of parents, students, teachers, administration and staff across the district.

Dr. McKeaney then presented an overview of the PSSA and Keystone Exams. It was noted that the PSSA included "legacy standards" as well as field test items from the newly adopted PA Core Standards. Test items that crossed over both the "legacy" and the new PA Core Standards counted toward the student scores. In 2013, Keystone Exams replaced the 11th grade PSSA. Rather than testing an overall understanding of Mathematics and Reading, the Keystone Exams target the specific standards for high school courses in Biology, Literature and Algebra I.

Mrs. Gina Nelson, Mathematics Curriculum Coordinator, provided additional information regarding the nature and scope of the PSSA, as well as the Keystone Assessment. She shared some highlights regarding student performance on the 2014 PSSA Mathematics and Keystone Algebra tests. She noted that there was an increase in the percentage of K-8 students scoring Advanced on the PSSA; and noted that more than 75% of grade 8 students scored Advanced. High school students enrolled in the Keystone "Trigger" courses (courses identified as Keystone eligible) also performed very well.

Dr. Katy Giovanisci provided Reading/Literacy highlights. She noted that the percentage of students scoring Proficient and Advanced continues to be consistent across the elementary buildings. Most impressive was the percentage of CMS students scoring proficient and advanced on the PSSA Reading test (above 90%). Also of note, more than 75% of grade 8 students scored Advanced in Reading and Mathematics. On the PSSA Writing test, the percent of students in Grade 5 scoring advanced increased from 7.8% to 19.9% and the percent of students in Grade 8 scoring proficient and advanced continues to be above 90%.

Dr. McKeaney noted the areas of focus for the upcoming school year are the PA Core Standards Shifts; Atlas/UbD-curriculum training for all CSD curriculum writers, curriculum integration; Continuous School Improvement, and Professional Development in Guided Reading and Mathematical Practices. Areas of concentration for the upcoming school year include identifying a balance of resources to bring materials up to date with 21st Century and PA Core Shifts.

Mr. Brodsky acknowledged Dr. McKeaney and the Curriculum Department for all of their hard work and dedication.

Innovative Project and NextFab Partnership

Mr. Sergio Anaya provided information regarding an authentic, real-world project that our high school students are working on. This involves students designing and printing a 3D model of a prosthetic hand for one of our students. Prior to the task, Sergio, Rich Evan, Chris Brunner and Sara Frey reviewed the design files which contained a 3D printable prosthetic hand that can manipulate the fingers based on the movement of the user's wrist. The plan includes printing a prototype model of the "Robohand" and "Cyborg Beast Hand." (<http://enablingthefuture.org/current-design-files/cyborg-beast-hand/>) Sergio reported this real-world project would provide CSD students with an opportunity to apply cutting edge skills learned in our Technology courses and to push the limits of our state of the art equipment to better the life of one of our students. Sergio shared that this team is working in partnership with NextFab Studio Laboratory in Philadelphia. He is also exploring possible professional development opportunities for our teachers and internship and apprenticeship opportunities for our students with NextFab.

Technology Updates with School Opening

Drew Boegly, Director of Technology, reported that due to the findings and recommendation of the Technology Strategic Plan all summer replacements have been ordered and shipped out. New teacher desktops for the K-3 buildings and Tech Ed labs were upgraded and rolled out with Windows 7 and existing equipment was upgraded to 4GB RAM. Favorites and settings from Windows XP were also transferred during the migration process. Replacement laptops and Microsoft Surface equipment was configured and installed as part of the district replacement schedule supporting the classroom curriculum. Areas of focus included PWHS Social Studies and Language Arts department along with CMS Science, Social Studies, Gifted and Special Ed.

The Copy Center equipment was also upgraded with new more efficient machines. The Xerox equipment was exchanged for Konica Minolta machines with Edwards Business Systems which resulted in a significant savings to the district.

Public Comment: There were no public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

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