

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes January 18, 2011, 5:00 P.M.

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, January 18, 2011, in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Assistant Superintendent, Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer. Present were Board President, Gary Johnson; Board Vice President Kathleen Oxberry; Board Members: Bernie Brady, Mel Brodsky, Sue Moore, and Beth Suchsland; Superintendent, Dr. Vincent Cotter; Director of Pupil Services and Special Education, Karen Berk; PW High School Principal, Heather Nuneviller; Dr. Liz McKeaney, Maria Bellino, Donna Gaffney, Kathleen Hamill; CMS Teachers Colleen DiFabio and Katie Przasnyski; PWHS Student Ross Levin; community member Linda Doll; and Marge Gramlich.

There were no public comments on the agenda.

Pearson Science Interactive Software: Maria Bellino, Science Curriculum Supervisor, introduced 8th grade CMS Science teachers Katy Przasnyski and Colleen DiFabio who presented a demonstration of the Pearson Interactive Software. This software was purchased as a result of recommendations from the Science Curriculum Review last year. In addition to being accessible from home, the software offers real time, current information and includes an on-line feature, virtual labs, and an ELL component. Maria Bellino, Science curriculum Supervisor noted that this program can be tailored individually to each student and used in a variety of ways for differentiation, enrichment and remediation.

PWHS Special Ed. Action Plan for Meeting AYP: Karen Berk, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education provided an updated action plan for meeting AYP at PWHS. She reported that going forward; special ed. students will participate in a full year of math and/or math support. Mrs. Berk noted that the content of Math courses has been aligned with the content of PSSA math assessments. She indicated that training will be conducted for Special Ed. Language Arts/Reading teachers to ensure that secondary literacy best practices and appropriate content is delivered to students in grades 6-12.

Mrs. Berk noted that 48% of Special Ed. students participated in some type of PSSA prep during first semester. She discussed plans to develop and implement PSSA review classes for at-risk 11th grade Special Ed students. Mrs. Berk also discussed the guidelines for determining which students will take the PSSA-M and the state's formula for scoring proficiency. Mrs. Nuneviller, PWHS principal noted that a revised 2011 testing schedule is being developed which includes shorter testing days and staff mentors in the classroom. She indicated that parents will be notified in advance of the new testing schedule.

World Language Program Review: Dr. Liz McKeaney, Director of the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Department, discussed this year's World Language District initiative. Goals include development of a high quality World Language program at CSD; determining the viability of teaching World Language using distance learning or on-line venues; finding ways to promote World Language to our students and the community and exploring ways to increase student interest and enrollment. Dr. McKeaney reported that a non-AP track curriculum is being

explored to increase student enrollment. Distance and on-line World Language programs are also being piloted. A group of PWHS students will begin piloting *myChinese360*, a distance learning program which includes lessons delivered by a teacher in China. Three of these students received scholarships from the MCIU. In addition, a Chinese cultural research component was explored during the activity period at CMS. The next step for those students is to move forward with the language component using *Power Speak Chinese* on-line program.

Professional development reflecting current research for teaching World Language has also been an area of focus. At the start of the school year, World Language teachers received training to support improved language proficiency. Continuation of professional development support in best practices will occur.

In an effort to promote World Language to students and the community, public service announcements on CITV and Teachable Moments on the HUB have also been created.

Dr. McKeaney shared that she will continue to monitor these initiatives and provide updates.

Grant Updates: Dr. McKeaney noted the following grants received by CSD:

Two mini-grants were awarded to CSD by The Pennsylvania Staff Development Council

- \$1,000 to support Differentiated Instruction Math Problem Solving Course for grades 2-5
- \$1,000 to support PD for teachers to begin the Writing Center at PWHS

CFEI has awarded two grants to CSD as follows:

- \$3,000 Technology grant (submitted by Kurt Kumfert and Chet Harris) for the PWHS Robotics Club to purchase materials for an additional robot
- \$5,000 for an AVID college trip which was submitted by Dan Balek

CFEI Grants Pending include:

- A grant was submitted by Sergio Anaya and Maria Bellino for *LinktoLearn* - a web-based tool which would provide virtual field trips and opportunities to talk to subject matter experts who can provide firsthand accounts of the field
- A grant was submitted by Sam Swetkowski for a *Renaissance Man* to perform Greek Myths for 7th grade students
- A grant was submitted by Sergio Anaya for *Power Speak* on-line Chinese program to cover tuition for a fourth CMS student.

Dr. McKeaney also shared that the Curriculum Team met with Mary Jane Gales at the MCIU to discuss CSD's programming needs and possible grant funding sources.

Curriculum Updates:

Writing Center - Kathleen Hamill reviewed the goals of the Writing Center; to improve student writing across the content areas and to establish opportunities for student leadership. She noted that 25 highly motivated students were chosen from a pool of 42 applicants to participate in this initiative. Mrs. Hamill indicated that curriculum writing for this course will be completed by early March.

Keystone Exams - Donna Gaffney, Mathematics Curriculum Supervisor, reported information about the Keystone Exams. These end-of-course assessments are designed to assess proficiency in the subject areas of Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Literature, English Composition, Biology, Chemistry, U.S. History, World History, and Civics and Government. Mrs. Gaffney met with MCIU staff to discuss the Keystone Exam for Algebra I. It has been determined that a small cohort of CMS students will take these exams. Further information about the Keystone Exams will be discussed at future meetings as it becomes available.

Common Core Standards - Donna Gaffney reported that Pennsylvania has adopted national Common Core Standards (CCS) for Math and Language Arts. PDE is expected to provide information regarding alignment of PA standards to the Common Core in late February. CCS will be integrated in the design of the state assessment over the next three years. This information will be used to revise curriculum and assessment.

Conference Requests: None

There being no Public Comments, Dr. Gorodetzer adjourned the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Marge Gramlich
Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent*