

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes February 14, 2011, 5:00 P.M.

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, February 14, 2011, in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Chairman Alan Tabachnick. Present were Board Vice President Kathleen Oxberry; Board Members: Mel Brodsky, Kelly Jowett, Sue Moore, and Beth Suchsland; Superintendent, Dr. Vincent Cotter; Assistant Superintendent, Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer; PW High School Principal, Heather Nuneviller; Dr. Liz McKeaney, Sergio Anaya, Maria Bellino, Donna Gaffney, Kathleen Hamill; CMS Teachers Carie Litz and Brooke Carpenter; community members Tom Davis and Linda Doll; and Marge Gramlich.

There were no public comments on the agenda.

Federal Programs Review: Kathleen Hamill, Federal Programs Coordinator, shared information regarding the Federal Programs Consolidated Review audit that will take place at CSD on February 25th. The audit occurs every three years and includes site visits to targeted and school-wide schools and interviews with staff, students, and parents. Audit documents that reflect compliance with federal fund expenditures are currently being compiled for the monitor.

Strategic Plan/Mid-point Review: Dr. Liz McKeaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, discussed the strategic planning process and purpose. She noted that all districts must develop and file a strategic plan with the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) every six years and review that plan for revision at the mid-point. The mid-point review is to be completed during the third year of the plan. To meet the Chapter 4 Academic Assessment and Standards Regulations, CSD must complete the mid-point review and file with the State by September 30, 2011. Dr. McKeaney shared that review and updating of plans is done annually through the School Improvement Process and professional development program. The mid-point review plan requires documentation on the progress and accomplishments of the first three years of the strategic plan, as well as evidence of new external requirements such as the inclusion of gifted education and ESL/ELL and the NCLB. This data collection is in process. Dr. McKeaney will be establishing a Strategic Planning Committee comprised of parents, students, school directors, administrators, teachers and other community representatives. The team will review the plan and recommend any revisions, addition, and deletions. Once revisions are completed, they must be approved by the committee and School Board. The report is then shared with the community, and then filed with the state by September 30, 2011.

Honors Level Writing Course: Mrs. Heather Nuneviller, PWHS Principal, shared information about the Writing Fellows Course at PWHS. A long-term goal is for students to be deemed *fellows* and given college credit. This initiative has led to the development of the first student-led writing class in Pennsylvania. Mrs. Nuneviller requested the Writing Fellows course be granted honors status; preliminary approval occurred at Academic Council and at Curriculum Council. Consensus was given by the Curriculum Committee to make this an honors level course.

Technology Ed Program: Sergio Anaya, Technology Education Curriculum Supervisor, provided an update on the conversion of the wood and metal shops into a high-tech environment which includes Computer Numeric Control (CNC) machines and 3-D printers. He noted that due

to a common work space, engineering students work side by side with product design students. Mr. Anaya explained that high-tech CAD labs require students to design and output 3-D models to either CNC machines or 3-D printers. He explained the product design process and brought a sample of a student-designed product.

Mr. Anaya indicated that a review of grades 6-12 technology education programming is being conducted to enhance articulation and continuity. The CMS curriculum is being revised to develop the skill sets necessary to be successful at PWHS. Two new courses, Product Design I and II, are currently offered. CNC and Animation II courses will be offered next year.

CIA Project Timelines: Dr. McKeaney highlighted instructional and professional development areas of focus. She provided an overview of programs that have been developed and implemented to provide for Enriched Learning Opportunities for High-Achieving Students. Programs included teacher professional development, course development, summer academies and university partnerships. Programs will be reviewed and evaluated this summer.

Mr. Anaya noted that students are very enthusiastic about participating in the on-line Chinese course, *myChinese360*, being piloted by four students at PWHS. CSD received a grant from the MCIU to fund the cost for three students. The cost for this course is \$650 per student. Funding resources to continue this program in the upcoming school year will be explored. Mr. Anaya also shared that a similar course is being piloted at CMS. Dr. McKeaney indicated that data from these courses will be collected and feedback given to the board at the end of this school year.

Dr. McKeaney noted that the fourth professional development session for *Differentiated Problem Solving to Enrich Math Instruction* has been completed. Teacher participants are enthusiastic and already implementing many of the strategies into their classroom practice. Sharing of best practices for DI to enrich math will be encouraged at the upcoming Best Practices Fair. Ms. Donna Gaffney will continue to work with teacher participants to establish additional Professional Development opportunities next year.

21st Century skills information will be reported next month.

Curriculum Updates:

AP Curriculum/Testing – Math Curriculum Supervisor, Mrs. Donna Gaffney, discussed upcoming curricular changes to the AP program. Based on current models of best practices in classroom instruction, College Board has revised several courses and exams in history, science and world languages. The data-driven revisions are designed to support teachers as they prepare students for college and career success in the 21st Century. She noted the importance of finding summer professional development opportunities for teachers to explore the new AP curriculum, as well as, expand the pool of AP teachers at PWHS.

AP Biology - Ms. Maria Bellino, Science Curriculum Supervisor, noted that AP Biology will be the first AP Exam taken by PW students. She indicated that she is exploring AP training on the revised curriculum. This will include training of selected laboratory investigations from an inquiry approach. Ms. Bellino will identify two biology teachers for the summer sessions, who would then train other CSD teachers. Ms. Bellino noted that the syllabus for the AP Biology course must be submitted to the AP Board by February of 2012 for approval.

Social Studies Keystone Exams – Mr. Anaya, Social Studies Curriculum Director, is serving on the state committee to develop the American Government Keystone Exam. Mr. Culp, PWHS Social Studies teacher, is serving on the committee to develop the U.S. History Keystone Exam. Mr. Anaya reported a high level of rigor on the Keystone Exams. The Social Studies Keystone Exams will be required for the class of 2017 (these students are currently in 7th grade). Mr. Anaya noted that frequent changes have been occurring in the development process. He will provide updates as they become available.

Summer Elementary Literacy Programs - Mrs. Hamill shared information about CSD summer literacy programs which target kindergarten through fifth grade students who are no more than one year below their reading level. Three half-day programs will operate Monday through Thursday, June 20 through July 14, 2011. There are two programs at Conshohocken Elementary School targeting K-2 students and 3-5 students, which are open to CSD students only. Tuition for the community program at Ridge Park is \$160 and is open to all K-2 students living in the District. Last year 116 students attended CSD summer literacy programs.

Girls in Technology – Ms. Bellino reported teacher feedback and suggestions for improvement from last summer's *Girls in Technology* course. Some challenges involved the wide age range of the girls. This year, two sessions, (for girls entering grades 5/6 and grades 7/8) are proposed at the same time. Each class will be limited to 15 students. Ms. Bellino indicated that there will be another planning meeting in March. It is hoped that the advertisement for parents and students will be prepared and publicized in late March. Tuition is estimated between \$150 and \$185 which will cover costs for a welcome kit (including some supplies) and teacher salaries.

PVAAS Report – Dr. McKeaney provided information regarding the Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS) Data Reports. She noted that Kristen Lewald, PVAAS Statewide Project Director for PDE noted that the State would be releasing reports to the public in early February. This has been delayed until adjustments to the PVAAS reporting site are made. Dr. McKeaney presented additional information regarding the basic ideas and uses of PVAAS. It was noted that PVAAS data reports are based on a growth model that predicts how much growth students are expected to gain each year. These reports are predictions, projections and estimates of student growth on the PSSA and do not show actual student performance. PVAAS reports recognize efforts of schools whose students have not achieved proficiency in the past. Dr. McKeaney will share additional information and reports at upcoming meetings.

An update regarding the World Language Program initiative will be provided at the March Curriculum Committee meeting.

Conference Requests: None

There being no public comments, Chairman Tabachnick adjourned the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

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