

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes August 16, 2010, 5:00 P.M.

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, August 16, 2010, in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Committee Chairman, Alan Tabachnick. Present were Superintendent, Dr. Vincent Cotter; Assistant Superintendent, Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer; Director of Pupil Services and Special Education, Karen Berk; Board Vice-President Sue Moore; Board Members: Mel Brodsky, and Kathleen Oxberry; PW High School Principal, Heather Nuneviller; Dr. Liz McKeaney, Donna Gaffney, Sergio Anaya, Kathleen Hamill, Maria Bellino; community members Linda Doll and Tom Davis; and Marge Gramlich.

There were no public comments on the agenda

Summer Programs: Reports on various summer programs were provided by administrators.

Girls in Technology: Maria Bellino reported on the success of the Girls in Technology Program which was held from June 14th to June 25th. Twenty-five girls entering grades 5 through 8 were enrolled in this two-week program. The goal of the program was to create a community that encourages girls to explore computer science topics. High school students assisted and mentored girls in the program. The program received positive media coverage in the Philadelphia Inquirer and in the Times Herald. Among the recommendations for next year are two, smaller-sized classes.

Summer Literacy Programs: Kathleen Hamill reported on the results of summer literacy programs held from June 21st through July 15th in the CSD.

- **The K-5 Summer Literacy Program** at Conshohocken Elementary School served a total of 89 students in reading and writing. Attendance in the programs averaged 84% and focused on the development of independent reading and writing skills. All students who participated in these programs at CE either increased or maintained their reading and writing skills levels.
- **The K-2 Summer Reading Program** held at Ridge Park Elementary School supported 16 students and concentrated solely on reading. Attendance averaged 81% and all students either increased or maintained their reading levels.

Summer Learning Project: Dr. Liz McKeaney reported on the Colonial Middle School Summer Learning Project. The goal of the program was to improve students' academic performance by promoting and modeling discipline-based thinking and learning. Twelve of the 19 students who participated in the program were mandatory participants (having failed one or two content area subjects), while seven students were recommended for participation by their teachers to help maintain their progress throughout the summer. Two separate program sessions were offered and all mandatory participating students were promoted to the next grade.

Note: Reports on the PWHS Credit Retrieval and Bridge programs will be provided at the September Curriculum Committee meeting.

Special Ed Programs: Four Extended School Year (ESY) programs were offered for students in grades K-5 and 6-12 and were supported by IDEA Funds. A total of 76 students were served by Summer Special Education Programs.

Elementary Learning Support (ELS) programs and Elementary Autistic Support (EAS) programs were provided to enable students to work on their individual IEP goals and achieve skill maintenance over the summer. Eighteen students were enrolled in the K-5 ELS program. Program data revealed that 98% of IEP goals either increased or maintained. This program focused on academic, social and community-based instruction. Twenty-two students were enrolled in the 6-12 EAS program and assessment data revealed that 93% of IEP goals were increased or maintained. This program included social skill instruction, speech instruction and weekly inclusion days.

Two secondary support programs for AES and Life Skills were also conducted for five weeks, four days per week, four hours per day. Most goals were social interaction goals. Five students were enrolled in the 6-12 AES program. All these students increased or maintained their IEP goals. The Secondary Life Skills Support program served 13 students and included reading, math and transition goals. IEP Reading goals were maintained or increased for 88% of students; Math skills were maintained or increased for 82% of the students; and all students maintained or increased their IEP transition goals.

A Summer Learning Academy was conducted for Special Education students entering grades 6-8 who did not qualify for ESY but had a need for extended opportunities. This program, focused on reading comprehension and mathematics, enrolled 23 students for 19 instructional days. All of these students showed improvements in reading and math.

Counseling Caseload-PWHS: Karen Berk and Heather Nuneviller reviewed the proposed changes for the PW Guidance Caseload. Discussions ensued pertaining to parent notification and options for seniors to remain with their original counselor. Administration will meet to develop a long-term plan focusing on future caseload options and responsibility delineation. An update on this topic will be provided to the committee at the September meeting.

AYP Results: Dr. McKeaney briefly discussed the AYP report and distributed a summary sheet. She explained the various ways AYP can be achieved. All K-8 schools achieved AYP. PWHS did not achieve AYP status due to the performance of the IEP disaggregate group. Karen Berk noted that a thorough review of the data will be performed and an action plan to improve the performance of special needs students on the PSSA will be developed.

Financial Education: Sergio Anaya presented a brief overview of the CSD financial literacy curriculum. All students receive specific instruction in financial literacy as part of the Family Consumer Science course work at CMS. Mr. Anaya indicated that students also have opportunities to participate in financial competitions and financial clubs.

Professional Learning Time: The schedule of upcoming PLT meetings was distributed. Both the high school and the middle school are dismissed early on these dates so that teachers can

collaborate and review best practices. Teachers in K-5 buildings have a 6th period prep which is dedicated to Professional Learning Time.

School Improvement Awards: Dr. Gorodetzer discussed School Improvement Awards for the 2010-11 school year. Building allocations are utilized to support remedial as well as enrichment programs for students.

World Language:

Dr. McKeaney indicated that a curriculum review of the World Language programs in the Colonial School District will take place this school year. She reported that a group of administrators and teachers will likely attend a World Language conference in Boston in November. They will assist in developing an action plan to improve the World Language program at the high school.

Sergio Anaya reported that he is working with the MCIU to provide *My Chinese 360*, a program which would allow high school students to immerse themselves in Chinese 1 and Chinese 2 and to work one-on-one with a teacher in China via computer. We have received scholarships for three of the four students who have been identified to pilot this program.

Enriched Learning Opportunities for High-Achieving Students: Dr. McKeaney provided an update on plans to differentiate instruction for high achieving, highly motivated students. She reported that an inquiry- and problem- based unified arts project has been designed for the middle school which would include mentors for students. Administrators met with high school student focus groups to discuss enrichment opportunities. An action team will be created to develop additional enrichment opportunities for highly motivated, highly talented students at the high school.

Induction Update: Donna Gaffney reported that Induction for new teachers will begin on Tuesday, August 17th and continue through Thursday, August 19th. With the goal of continuous improvement, feedback from last year's induction sessions was incorporated into this year's program.

August PD: Mrs. Gaffney indicated that three days of Professional Development will take place on August 24, 25 and 26. This will include setting building goals, technology updates and review of curriculum updates. Teacher classroom time has also been built into the schedule.

Title III Federal Programs Allocations: Mr. Anaya reported that Title III Federal program allocations have been reduced this year by \$28,000.

Chairman Tabachnick adjourned the meeting at 6:21 p.m.

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