

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes October 18, 2010, 5:00 P.M.

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, October 18, 2010, in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by Committee Chairman, Alan Tabachnick. Present were Board President, Gary Johnson; Board Vice-President, Sue Moore; Board Members: Bernie Brady, Mel Brodsky, Kathleen Oxberry and Beth Suchsland; Superintendent, Dr. Vincent Cotter; Assistant Superintendent, Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer; Director of Pupil Services and Special Education, Karen Berk; Dr. Liz McKeaney, Donna Gaffney, Kathleen Hamill, Maria Bellino, Pat Tamborello, Kim Geiger; community members Linda Doll and Tom Davis; and Marge Gramlich.

There were no public comments on the agenda.

College Counseling: Pat Tamborello, PWHS College Counselor provided an overview of her duties and responsibilities. Pat provided extensive information regarding the parent programs, college admission programs and student programs that she coordinates. Pat described the guidance and assistance that she provides to PWHS students and their families in their quest to identify appropriate post-secondary universities, complete application to these institutions and attain acceptance to their "schools of choice."

The role of the grade level counselor, as it relates to college application and admission was also discussed. Challenges with the current electronic transcript that replaced *Prep HQ* were discussed. Costs associated with a move to another vendor, *Naviance*, were also discussed. Further review of this new product was suggested.

Writing Center Proposal: Department Head Kimberlee Geiger supported by LA Supervisor Kathleen Hamill shared the framework and design of the writing center that has been preliminarily initiated at PWHS. The four year rollout plan, aligned with CSD focus on reading and writing across the content areas, is designed to ultimately provide writing support to students in an individualized and/or small group environment. A dedicated Writing Center Committee meets regularly to monitor and update the plan using a focused implementation and monitoring timeline. I-Block writing supports are underway, a survey of content staff writing needs has been developed for dissemination, and a writing fellowship student internship proposal has been presented at Academic Council. Visits to established Writing Centers are being investigated.

Integrated Math: Donna Gaffney, Mathematics Curriculum Supervisor, provided a data summary of CSD's *Problem-Based Integrated Mathematics Curriculum and Student Achievement*. She reported gains in PSSA Mathematics performance in the *Advanced* and *Proficient* categories, as well as a reduction in the *Below Basic* and *Basic* categories. Mrs. Gaffney indicated that a comparison of SAT Mean Scores in Mathematics between the graduating classes of 2005 (those taught traditional mathematics programming) and 2010 (the

first graduating class of students who completed the problem-based integrated mathematics instructional curriculum) revealed increased mean scores for all groups. Mrs. Gaffney also noted a 41% increase in enrollment for Honors and AP Math courses during that time. Additionally, she indicated that while national SAT scores have remained fairly flat for the last five years, PWHS student SAT Math Mean scores have climbed more than 20 points. Mrs. Gaffney also reported a notable increase over the last five years in honors and AP Math enrollment, especially in *Calculus BC* and Statistics.

Mrs. Gaffney explained that CSD elementary students also learn Math through a problem-based, integrated math curriculum. As a follow-up to previous board inquiries, she reported that secondary level Math tutorials are now available for parents on the HUB. Additional student achievement data will also be presented at parent council.

Conference Requests: Conference requests were reviewed for PWHS teachers Adam Bailey and Kent Dwyer to attend the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Conference from November 19-21, 2010 in Boston, Massachusetts. Funding for costs associated with this conference will be provided by the District Office.

A conference request was reviewed for CES Principal, TC Boegly, to attend the Pennsylvania Council for Exceptional Children annual conference at State College, PA on November 11 and 12, 2010. Title One funds will cover expenses for this conference.

Consensus was given to present these conference requests at the Board Meeting on October 21, 2010.

There being no Public Comments, Chairman Tabachnick adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

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