

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes January 9, 2012

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, January 9, 2012, in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chairman Mel Brodsky. Present were Board President, Alan Tabachnick; Board Members: Bernie Brady, Leslie Feingold, Christina Frangiosa, Julie Knudsen, Sue Moore and Beth Suchsland; Superintendent, Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer; Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Dr. Liz McKeaney; Curriculum Supervisors Sergio Anaya, Maria Bellino, Donna Gaffney and Kathleen Hamill; community members Tom Davis and Linda Doll; and Marge Gramlich.

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

S.I.O.P. (Sheltered Instruction Observational Protocol): Sergio Anaya, ESL Curriculum Supervisor, provided a feature presentation of the SIOP model used in CSD. He noted that English Language Learners (ELL) is one of the fastest growing sub-groups within U.S. schools. Presently there are 74 ELLs in CSD in this school year, speaking a total of 12 different languages. Mr. Anaya provided a brief history of the present SIOP model which has been in use at CSD since 2008. Mr. Anaya highlighted the eight components of the SIOP program. Strategies are established for these students both culturally and interactively. Dr. McKeaney reported that professional development is extensive for this collaborative effort. Mr. Anaya concluded with a short video showcasing SIOP in action.

Mr. Anaya also reported information regarding WIDA testing which is administered to all ELLs to determine their levels of academic and social understanding. This year the WIDA Access testing window is from January 23rd to March 2nd. Chairman Brodsky thanked Mr. Anaya for his comprehensive presentation.

Informational Updates:

- **R.A.I.S.E.** – This research grant sponsored by the Gates Foundation offers ten days of free professional development, which is aligned with our curriculum, for a cohort of content area teachers. Mrs. Hamill reported that we will submit a preliminary application by Feb 10th. Teachers would receive stipends of \$1,000 each for the training at DeSales University. The grant would also cover the cost of substitutes so that teachers could attend a winter follow up PD session.

- **Common Core Standards** – Dr. McKeaney provided a background of the Common Core Standards (CCS) noting that they are more rigorous than current PA Academic Standards. Mrs. Hamill shared a list of PDE responsibilities/District responsibilities and a timeline for implementation of CCS, noting that CSD is on target. She provided an analysis and evaluation of the increased rigor and integration of knowledge for 5, 8 and 11th grade levels, indicating that CSD curriculum currently reflects rigorous content. Mrs. Hamill reported that CSD teachers have been and will continue to reference CCS to evaluate and align our curriculum. Mrs. Gaffney provided information pertaining to mathematics and noted that CSD is already teaching much of what Common Core Standards emphasize. CSD's standards will be revised to reflect the Common Core Standards and will be implemented in grades 3-5 in the spring of 2014, and in grades 6-8 in the spring of 2016.

- **Keystone** – Dr. McKeaney provided background information of development of the Keystone Exams since 2009. Pending budgetary approval, Keystone Exams will be implemented in the 2012-13 school year. Mrs. Gaffney noted that the State is developing an alternate pathway to proficiency, for those students who do not pass the Keystone after two attempts. Schools will be required to assign a staff member to supervise students taking this alternate assessment before, during or after school. Mrs. Gaffney reported that CSD did explore having our own local assessments validated to meet the graduation requirement; however, extensive cost, time and effort make this option unlikely; additionally, there would be no guarantee that our tests would be accepted. The Keystone tests will be administered in addition to the grade 11 PSSA tests until Keystones are approved as a valid measure of meeting AYP.
- **Strategic Plan** – Dr. McKeaney explained that the Strategic Plan is a six-year plan required by the State to ensure continuous improvement in schools. The mid-point review of the Strategic Plan is due by January 31, 2012. Ms. Maria Bellino noted that a committee has met to revise the mission and vision as well as update/check on the status of the goals that were set three years ago. Ms. Bellino distributed a summary of the work completed by the committee to be submitted to PDE. A meeting of business affiliates, teachers, public, and Board members will be conducted on January 26th to review this document before the January 31st deadline.

Conference Requests: A conference request was reviewed for Sergio Anaya to attend the Imagine Learning Partnership Forum in Washington, DC on Feb 1-3, 2012. Mr. Anaya was invited to attend at no charge.

A conference request for Art Teacher Candy Maggioncalda to attend a convention in NYC in March to update her on current research was reviewed. The PWHS building fund will provide \$500 in funding for this convention.

Consensus was reached to present these conference requests at the Board meeting on January 19th.

There being no public comments, Chairman Brodsky adjourned the meeting at 5:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marge Gramlich
Administrative Assistant to the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment