

## Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes February 6, 2012 – 4:30 PM

*The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, February 6, 2012, in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Committee Chair Mel Brodsky. Present were Board President, Alan Tabachnick and Committee Member Leslie Finegold. Other Board Members attending were: Bernie Brady and Chris Frangiosa. Also attending were Superintendent Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Dr. Elizabeth McKeaney, Curriculum Supervisors Maria Bellino, Donna Gaffney, Kathleen Hamill and Sergio Anaya; Special Education Supervisor Eileen Spector, PW High School Principal Heather Nuneviller, PWHS Assistant Principal Joe Carracappa, Language Arts Department Head Kimberlee Geiger, PWHS Students and Writing Fellows Leigh Brosf and Lauren Ravitch; community member Linda Doll; and Bunnie Swetkowski.*

There were no public comments on the agenda.

**Writing Center/Writing Fellows:** Dr. Liz McKeaney introduced Curriculum Supervisor Kathleen Hamill who shared the history of the development of the new student-led Writing Center at PWHS. A Teachable Moment video was viewed by the committee (and can also be viewed on the District Web site). Two of the five original Writing Fellows were in attendance and shared some of their experiences and techniques that were utilized in the process. Leigh Brosf and Lauren Ravitch enthusiastically reported that they went to Temple University to develop their tutoring skills and worked on specific strategies to work with different students. They developed a mission, goal and philosophy for the Writing Center. They shared copies of their student-composed Tutor Manual. They also noted that they received so much back from giving, and that it was their most meaningful course in high school. English teacher and Language Arts Department Head Kim Geiger shared that there are so many benefits to collaborative learning. She also noted that the writing fellows have applied to present at the Shippensburg Annual Conference on *How to initiate and start up a Writing Center*. Dr. Gorodetzer noted that this highly successful project began a few years ago as a request from Alan Tabachnick to enhance learning for high achieving students. The District provided the idea, support, and guidance in this leadership opportunity. The students ran away with it! As an expanded opportunity, the Writing Fellows plan to collaborate with Science students on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Science Annual.

### Curriculum/Program Updates

**Strategic Plan: Mid Point Review:** Dr. McKeaney noted that the mid-point review for the District's Strategic Plan was due in September. However, since the District has a new Superintendent, we were granted an extension. On January 26 a Community Meeting was held to review the District's Strategic Plan. Dr. McKeaney thanked community member Linda Doll for being part of the committee and also acknowledged Leah Hepler from ASTM, International for serving on the committee.

Curriculum Supervisor Maria Bellino shared the revision process with the Curriculum Committee. She reviewed the District's Goals, Mission/Vision and Shared Values. She noted that after compiling the progress/accomplishments of the first three years of the Strategic Plan, recommendations for revisions were developed. The goals and their progress were analyzed. Minor changes included the addition of Dr. Gorodetzer's goal of *promoting a culture of collaboration, innovation and inspiration*. Revisions were submitted to the committee and shared with the community members. The revised plan was submitted to PDE on January 31, 2012. Maria noted that CSD is on course to achieving our goals; it's a living document; a continuous improvement model. She hopes to reflect on the goals of the Strategic Plan at the end of every year to assess District progress to attaining our goals.

**Master Teacher Tenure:** Dr. McKeaney shared that the Master Teacher Program in our District empowers teachers to share their skills and talents. Traditionally, teachers are invited to submit applications for Master Teacher every spring. On average, seven to ten teachers are selected each year; however there is no quota. As a result of Master Teacher feedback, a team was assembled to examine the extension of tenure for Master Teachers. The team will present their recommendations to the District Improvement Team at a meeting on February 7, 2012 for approval. The recommendations will be an extension of tenure (from a two to a three year term). Additionally, teachers will be able to apply every other year (in the spring or the fall to provide the opportunity for all).

**CSD/Perkiomen Valley SD Collaborative:** Dr. McKeaney shared that the Superintendent of Perkiomen Valley and Colonial School District are working on a developing a collaborative partnership around shifting the paradigm in teaching. A presentation by Apple Speaker John Landis (former chemistry teacher) on April 24 will be provided to selected CSD / Perkiomen Valley SD teachers as a Professional Development opportunity.

**Business/Township Partnerships:** Maria Bellino reported that ASTM, International (American Society of Testing and Materials) has offered to partner with CSD. This company writes standards for testing and materials. One opportunity for our students will be to visit a plant in New Jersey to witness oil skimmers.

Plymouth Parks and Recreation Department has approached CSD to work on a committee to investigate the Wetherill property and the value it may bring to our students. Maria Bellino has agreed to be a part of the committee to see the possibilities for our students to benefit from this opportunity.

## **Summer Programs**

Language Arts Curriculum Supervisor Kathleen Hamill offered the Summer Literacy Programs to the Committee. She noted that the programs are scheduled from Monday through Friday for

three weeks. The goal of the programs is to assure that students maintain their reading level during the summer.

Sergio Anaya and Maria Bellino reviewed the Girls in Technology Summer Program. The sessions will be held during the last two weeks of June. Chris Frangiosa noted that it would be easier for working parents if the session were full day instead of half day. This program, however, has been very successful for the past two years and student/teacher feedback will be reviewed at the end of the session.

There was consensus from the committee to move forward on the summer programs. They will be on the February Board Agenda for approval.

Eileen Spector noted that there are seven criteria for eligibility for the ESY Program. The District will run the same program as it has for previous years. There will be four elementary programs and two secondary programs. Additionally, there will be a cut-back on the community based programs. An in-house breakfast business will be a part of the ESY program (this will keep the students on campus).

**Conference Requests:** Special Education Teacher Laura Oxman has requested to attend a conference on Autism in Voorhees, NJ on February 9-10, 2012. This request will be included in the February Board Agenda for approval.

**Note:** Donna Gaffney shared that the Summer Music Programs will be reviewed at the CRSL meeting following the Curriculum Committee of the Board. She also noted that the music teacher will be paid for his services through the business office.

Mr. Brodsky shared that the next Curriculum Committee of the Board will be held on Monday, March 5 at 4:30 PM. There being no Public Comments, Mr. Brodsky adjourned the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Bunnie Swetkowski  
Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent*