

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes March 5, 2012

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, March 5, 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: Leslie Feingold, Christina Frangiosa, Julie Knudsen, Sue Moore and Beth Suchsland; Superintendent, Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer; Director of Pupil Services and Special Education, Karen Berk; Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Dr. Liz McKeaney; Curriculum Supervisors, Sergio Anaya, Maria Bellino, Donna Gaffney and Kathleen Hamill; Technology Staff Developer, Steve Price; PWHS World Languages Department Head, Patricia D'Annunzio; CMS Mathematics teacher, Tanya Prickitt; community members Tom Davis and Linda Doll; and Marge Gramlich.

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

Textbook Approval: Sergio Anaya, World Language Curriculum Supervisor presented a request for approval to purchase 200 Spanish textbooks. Purchase of these textbooks would support those students who wish to continue Spanish II, but not at the AP level. Mr. Anaya introduced Patricia D'Annunzio, 6-12 World Languages Department Head, who discussed the proposed use of these textbooks in the classroom. Ms. D'Annunzio provided information on 21st century technology-based material aligned with our curriculum, which is included in the textbook purchase price. Dr. McKeaney thanked Ms. D'Annunzio for her participation in the Curriculum Committee meeting. Consensus was reached for this proposal to be presented at the Board meeting on March 15th.

Differentiated Instruction: Dr. McKeaney introduced an informative video presentation explaining Differentiated Instruction. During professional development, teachers learn to assess students' readiness, interests and learning profiles; prior to, during and after their learning to ensure students' understanding. In this way, teachers can see that students' needs are met and that students and teachers make informed learning choices to reach their goals. Differentiation provides multiple opportunities for each student to reach their goals and is used in the classroom to actively engage students in the learning process.

Maria Bellino, Science Curriculum Supervisor, provided a brief history of the commitment to Differentiated Instruction in the CSD at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Donna Gaffney, Mathematics Curriculum Supervisor, explained and provided examples of how teachers differentiate content, process, product and environment within their classrooms.

Tanya Prickitt, Colonial Middle School Mathematics teacher shared the transformation of teaching and learning in her classroom at the middle school. She noted the importance of collaboration with colleagues and the value in the professional development she received. She discussed improvements in her process of assessing students and the value of student self-assessment and how she uses Differentiated Instruction in her practice.

Sergio Anaya, Social Studies, Curriculum Supervisor, showed an example of Differentiated Instruction by content, by process and by product, using an on-line tool called Edmodo.

Steve Price, Technology Staff Developer discussed some of the 21st century technology tools in use at CSD and how they are effectively adding to and supporting the learning environment. Dr. McKeaney noted that teachers and administrators are eager to expand their technology options and their meaningful use in the classroom.

Karen Berk, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education noted that assessment and monitoring of special needs students is ongoing. She remarked that CSD's curriculum is rich and varied, which allows Special Ed. students to be included and successful through differentiated learning.

Informational Updates:

- *Master Teachers:* Dr. McKeaney shared that a proposal for changes to tenure for Master Teachers was presented to the District Improvement Team. Consensus was reached to change the Master Teacher tenure from a two- to three-year cycle.
- *State and Federal Funding:* Kathleen Hamill, Federal Programs Coordinator, indicated that there has been a \$10,000 decrease in federal funds to the district based on the final allocation. The budget has been adjusted for this loss in funding.
- *ASTM Post-Secondary Enrichment:* Ms. Bellino noted that ASTM invited a group of PWHS students to a tour of their facility where students also had the chance to speak with engineers. Ms. Bellino also shared that CSD students will soon visit a NJ facility where oil skimmers are created. Dr. McKeaney noted that this is an example of the corporate and university partnerships we have been forging.
- *Writing Fellows Conference Presentation:* Kathleen Hamill, Language Arts Curriculum Supervisor, shared that the proposal to present at the Mid Atlantic Writing Center Association (MAWCA) annual conference, which was put forth by five PWHS Writing Fellows, was accepted. Students were invited to present "*The Student-Led High School Writing Center: Envisioning, Planning, and Implementing*" on March 30-31, 2012 at Shippensburg University.

Conference Requests: A conference request was reviewed for Glen Hackett, PWHS AP English teacher, to attend the East Asian Literature Conference from July 8-13, 2012 at the University of Indiana. Mr. Hackett was one of 25 teachers chosen from across the nation to attend this conference. Consensus was reached to present this conference request at the Board meeting on March 15, 2012.

There being no public comments, Chairman Brodsky adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

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