

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes May 7, 2012

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, May 7, 2012, in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 4:34 p.m. by Chairman Mel Brodsky. Present were Board Members: Leslie Feingold, Christina Frangiosa, Sue Moore, and Beth Suchsland; Superintendent, Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer; Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Dr. Liz McKeaney; Andrew Boegly, Chief Information Officer; Heather Nuneviller, PWHS Principal; Curriculum Supervisors, Sergio Anaya, Donna Gaffney and Kathleen Hamill; Technology Staff Developer Steve Price; community members Tom Davis and Linda Doll; and Marge Gramlich.

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

Dr. McKeaney noted that the focus of the meeting was Technology. She provided a brief history of the Technology Planning Committee and its sub-committees: Infrastructure; Learning Management Systems (LMS)/Curriculum Mapping System; and Bring Your Own Device (BYOD).

Mr. Boegly reported on the challenges and the work of the Infrastructure Committee. He stated that the wireless network currently in place is five years old and he wanted to be sure it meets the demands of the classroom. A third-party vendor was hired to perform a network audit on both the hardwired and wireless network. The audit evaluated CSD's usage requirements and present inventory to meet the growing bandwidth and network speed demands. Recommendations were made for a 5-9 year time frame accounting for a BYOD and web based LMS system. We are focusing on the high school since it presently puts the highest demand on the network. Mr. Boegly indicated that next steps include pinpointing what needs to be replaced, determining costs and priorities.

Technology Staff Developer Steve Price, chair of the LMS Committee, provided information on the work of that committee. Twenty-four K-12 teachers gathered to create a rubric using 54 different components. The committee reviewed and evaluated four different products for potential use in the digital classroom. Mr. Price reported Edmodo, a best-fit collaboration tool for the classroom, as the committee's recommendation.

Sergio Anaya provided a brief history of CSD's on-line curriculum. Mr. Anaya, chair of the Curriculum Mapping System Committee, reported that after establishing a framework and reviewing three different applications, the committee's recommendation was *Atlas Rubicon*, a customizable product that will be integrated over a three-year period. Mr. Anaya noted that teachers were very appreciative to be part of the process.

Dr. McKeaney shared that the Technology Planning Committee established a vision for technology integration with a goal of ensuring that students are prepared to meet success in the 21st century. Objectives included increasing student engagement and strengthening the delivery of the curriculum through appropriate technological tools and applications. She noted that as part of this

committee's exploration, visits were conducted to both Quakertown and Upper Merion school districts to observe their BYOD environments. Dr. McKeaney indicated that CSD is currently reviewing and refining acceptable use policy, teacher/student guidelines, and establishing a timeline. This will be piloted in one or more classrooms.

Dr. McKeaney stated that committee/teacher participants will be sharing recommendations with parents before BYOD is implemented. Dr. Gorodetzer stressed the importance of professional development in rolling out these recommendations.

Informational Updates:

- Race to the Top 3 – Dr. McKeaney explained that Race to the Top is a federal grant program, an extension of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and based upon Title One eligibility data. Kathleen Hamill further explained that based on information gleaned from webinars and PDE documents, the consensus was that it would not be beneficial for CSD to participate at this time for reasons including:
 - Funds are not discretionary and must be used for state mandated professional development
 - CSD would be required to use the state's teacher evaluation model
 - Extensive professional development is required that goes beyond the monies offered.

Dr. Gorodetzer indicated that CSD is currently investigating an effective educator evaluation instrument that meets the needs of our district. She said that if the state mandates a tool, we will follow the state's model.

- CMS Math Follow-up – Donna Gaffney provided follow-up information regarding changes to the CMS math curriculum next year. Chairman Brodsky noted that he joined Robert Fahler, CMS Principal and Mrs. Gaffney on a curriculum walkthrough of CMS math classes and was impressed by the quality of teaching and student engagement in the classrooms. Mrs. Gaffney noted that next steps include a meeting on May 9th with Mr. Fahler, herself, the CMS Math Coach, and Math Liaison at CMS to review the 6th-7th grade Advanced Math placement criteria to ensure it is aligned with the curriculum and assessments. Mrs. Gaffney also noted that parents of 5th grade students are invited to Parent Orientation at CMS at 7:00 on May 21st. Prior to that meeting, an informational Math session will be offered at 6:30 to answer any Math specific questions concerning this change.
- Eduplanet – Dr. McKeaney shared that *Eduplanet* was piloted on-line last year as a blended (on-line and face-to-face) model to increase the proficiency of our professional development by allowing our PLTs to communicate both locally and globally. She noted that we will continue to explore Eduplanet next year with ESL teachers, Master Teachers and Literacy Specialists.
 - Mr. Anaya addressed some uses of Eduplanet for the upcoming year including the ability to archive discussions and PD modules for new teachers which will allow us to administer PD to new teachers and LTSs at a more beneficial pace.

- Mrs. Gaffney noted that Eduplanet can also be used for parent-community outreach and to create best practices modules and PD videos. Mrs. Gaffney said that Master Teachers have already seen Eduplanet and are discussing ways to further explore this tool over the summer.
- Mrs. Hamill shared that Eduplanet will be used for a book study, allowing teachers to stay in their buildings and maximize their learning time.

Conference Requests: There are no conference requests for approval this month.

There being no public comments, Chairman Brodsky adjourned the meeting at 5:23 p.m.

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