

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes June 4, 2012

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, June 4, 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 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; 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 shared 2005 through 2011 performance data from various student groups in grades 3, 5, 8 and 11. She noted an increase in performance scores and a marked decrease in the achievement gap between students. CSD scores exceeded comparable state performance scores. CSD students show consistent increases in both *Advanced* and *Proficient* levels of scoring. IEP, Economically Disadvantaged and unmatched cohort information (groups of students traveling together through 3-4-5-6th grade) was also reviewed.

Dr. McKeaney noted that CSD's teaching and learning is culturally responsible and uses high quality instructional practices for students, such as Differentiated Instruction, Cooperative Learning, Formative Assessment, and Project Based Learning. Dr. Gorodetzer commented on the large learning gap across the state and its impact on all students, especially minority and economically disadvantaged students.

A summary of our student achievement data will be provided to the public and to state senators and representatives.

Informational Updates:

- Scheduling - Dr. McKeaney and CMS building administration have been exploring scheduling options that would allow more time for Mathematics instruction.
- Mr. Anaya and Mr. Price are working with Computer Resource Teachers (CRT) at each building to update the instructional technology curriculum to ensure equity of skills across grade levels.
- CSD is proposing *iPad* pilots at PWHS for science electives (Microbiology and Engineering) and at PE for reading, as well as for ESL students. *iPads* may also be piloted in K-3 technology labs. *iPads* will be piloted and monitored judiciously so that issues can be addressed as they arise, before they are implemented across the district.
- AP – Dr. McKeaney and the Curriculum Team are currently working with building administrators to explore meaningful options beyond the AP exams, to increase student engagement in the senior year.

- Science Annual Reception – Maria Bellino, Science Curriculum Supervisor, distributed invitations to Board members for the June 12th reception for students whose work is published in the *2012 Science Annual*. A \$1,500 grant from Quaker Chemical was used to fund the publication costs. Parents, teachers and members of Quaker Chemical have been invited to the reception.

Proposed Amendments to Chapter 4 Regulations

- **Keystone Exams** - The present state plan provides for the Keystone Exams to count as a graduation requirement for CSD's current 7th grade class.
- **Strategic Planning** - The state is proposing an annual Strategic Plan, similar to our present school improvement plan model. Currently CSD's Strategic Plan is a six year plan with a mid-plan update at the third year.
- **Common Core** – CSD is working to align our curriculum with the Common Core curriculum. Much of this work will take place during the summer.

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

Discussion Items: Chairman Brodsky opened the floor for issues or topics for discussion. There were none at this time. Dr. Gorodetzer assured those present that Dr. McKeaney and the Curriculum Supervisors are always available if they have any questions or wish to add a topic to the next meeting agenda.

There being no public comments, Chairman Brodsky adjourned the meeting at 5:27 p.m.

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