

## Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes October 3, 2011

*The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, October 3, 2011, in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m. by Chairman Alan Tabachnick. Present were Board Members: Mel Brodsky, Jodi Miscannon, 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; Plymouth Whitmarsh High School Principal Heather Nuneviller; community member Linda Doll; and Marge Gramlich.*

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

**Data Report/Student Achievement:** Dr. Liz McKeaney discussed an overview of the preliminary 2011 student achievement. All schools made AYP last year. Dr. McKeaney highlighted PSSA Montgomery County data comparisons; SAT mean scores; ACT scores from 2006 to 2011 and Advanced Placement (AP) exams. Highlights included:

**AP** – Trends showed a 26 % increase in the number of AP exams taken from 2006 to 2011. There was also a 38% increase in the number of students taking AP exams. Students scoring a 3 or higher on at least one exam has also increased from 27% in 2005 to 32% in 2011. Comparatively, PWHS students scoring 3 or higher in the AP exams is much higher than that of the State and globally.

**SAT Scores** – There were slight decreases in mean SAT scores. Various factors were discussed including a larger diversity in the student population who took the SAT exams this year. Dr. McKeaney noted a dramatic increase in the percentage of students taking SAT exams from 63% in 2010 to 76% in 2011.

**PSSA** - The percentage of students scoring proficient and above on the PSSA continues to increase with students scoring well above the state averages. There was a notable increase in the proficiency percentage of grade 11 in reading and math. Dr. McKeaney noted that the *PDE School Report Card* will be put on CSD's website when it becomes available in November.

### **Curriculum Updates:**

- Maria Bellino provided an update regarding Solar Panels and Curricular Connections. Tangent Energy has provided kiosks at CES and PWHS, with a third to be installed at CMS. These kiosks display live, real-time data which can be used in the classroom. Ms. Bellino will continue to meet with Tangent Energy to identify potential curricular connections.
- Donna Gaffney provided information on the Algebra I Keystone Exam – Pilot Results. The Keystone Exams have been put on hold because of a shortfall in the State education budget. Based on the content of this end-of-course exam, it was determined this test be given at the end of the Integrated Math II course. Mrs. Gaffney reported that five of our Integrated 2 Honors students at CMS took the Keystone Algebra I pilot exam. All of our students scored in the advanced category on this rigorous pilot test; state-wide only 38.6% of students were proficient or better.

- Sergio Anaya will be reviewing items and providing input to the *Keystone Exams Civics and Government Review* Committee in Harrisburg this week.
- Mrs. Gaffney reported that we are in the process of reviewing the Math curriculum in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades for rigor and relevance of content.
- *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) Update – Dr. McKeaney reported that certain provisions of NCLB will be waived by 2014. She provided a brief update on conditions of the waiver and the *Waiver Watch* for each state. Pennsylvania has not yet applied for a waiver.

Dr. Gorodetzer noted that we have developed a Teacher Supervision/Evaluation Committee to examine differentiated models. She reported that CSD was visited by Dr. Michael Lechliter, Superintendent of Penn Manor School District in Lancaster County, last week to learn about our district's curricular, assessment and instructional model programs and teacher performance and evaluation systems. Penn Manor School District is part of the State pilot for the Teacher Performance Multi-Measure Evaluation System.

**Conference Requests:** Conference requests were reviewed for four K-3 music teachers to attend the American Orff-Schulwerk Association National Conference in Pittsburgh, PA on November 10 and 11, 2011. Each teacher will attend different sessions and will share what they have learned with their colleagues. Building funds will be used to cover expenses for this conference which is aligned with our district initiatives. Consensus was reached to present these conference requests for approval at the Board meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

There being no public comments, Chairman Tabachnick adjourned the meeting at 5:22 p.m.

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