

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes December 6, 2011

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Tuesday, December 6, 2011, in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 4:29 p.m. by Chairman Alan Tabachnick. Present were Board Members: Mel Brodsky, and Beth Suchsland; Superintendent, Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer; Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Dr. Liz McKeaney; Plymouth Whitemarsh High School Principal, Heather Nuneviller; PWHS Associate Principal, Jason Bacani; PWHS Assistant Principal Joseph Carracappa; Curriculum Supervisors Sergio Anaya, Maria Bellino, Donna Gaffney and Kathleen Hamill; community members Tom Davis and Linda Doll; and Marge Gramlich.*

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

PWHS Course Catalog Changes: Dr. McKeaney introduced Mrs. Heather Nuneviller, PW High School Principal who presented PWHS Course Catalog Changes for review by the Curriculum Committee.

Mrs. Nuneviller requested that the Writing Fellows Program count as an honors level graduation credit, based on the rigorous curriculum and a review of last year's data from this elective course. She discussed the selection process which includes the submission of a student writing sample, teacher-recommendation and an interview. The Writing Fellows Program increases student options and will be open only to 12th grade students. Mrs. Kathleen Hamill, Language Arts Curriculum Supervisor, provided additional information about the student interview process. She noted that 13 high-level writers were accepted into the Program which began in the fall. Mrs. Hamill noted that CSD has been recognized at a State conference for our Writing Fellows program and has also received a grant for this program.

Mrs. Nuneviller stated that the Writing Center is open daily after school and during I block three days per week to assist students across content areas. She noted that students have logged 800 visits to the Writing Center this year. A student-created web site is available for students to communicate and interact.

Sports and Entertainment Management Course: Sergio Anaya provided information about the Sports and Entertainment Management Course which will present an enriched learning opportunity for students. He noted that this is a career opportunity at many universities. Prerequisites are Personal Finance or Economics.

Personal Fitness & Nutrition: Mr. Anaya reported that the new Personal Fitness & Nutrition course replaces last year's Family Consumer Science course. He indicated that the two tiered Personal Finance course will help reach higher level students.

Consensus was reached to move forward with these courses in the course catalog.

Dr. Gorodetzer discussed the possibility of interfacing/partnering with the Tech School to better align our curricula and design a hybrid model for students. Mr. Anaya reported that biomedical,

arts, and engineering areas are being examined. We would like to offer opportunities for students to take courses to build skills that may not be available in our high school courses.

Strategic Plan: Liz provided an update on the Strategic Plan Mid-Point review process. This state required plan is in the third year. She reported that a meeting to review Standards and Assessment was held. The mid-point review will be reviewed, finalized and entered into the PDE system at the end of next month.

Mrs. Gaffney reported that she was contacted by Diane Berry, the new Curriculum Director at Methacton School District, to arrange a visit to CSD to learn about the supports we have in place for Special Education at the high school. The continuous improvement process will be discussed with them as well as professional development curricular areas of focus.

Public Comment: Mr. Davis inquired as to why students attending the Tech School are receiving classes in English or Math. Dr. Gorodetzer explained that students focus on content in those courses to help develop their technical skills.

There being no public comments, Chairman Tabachnick adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

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

* Board member arrived at 4:45 p.m.