

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes February 11, 2013

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, February 11, 2013 in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m. by Curriculum Committee Chairman Mel Brodsky. Present were Board President Alan Tabachnick; Board Members: Bernie Brady, Leslie Feingold, Christina Frangiosa, Heather Palmer and Beth Suchsland; Superintendent, Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer; Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Dr. Liz McKeane; Curriculum Supervisors: Donna Gaffney and Kathleen Hamill; PWHS Principal Jason Bacani; community members Sandy Connelly and Linda Doll; and Marge Gramlich.

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

Summer Programs: Dr. McKeane shared information about eight summer programs.

Literacy Programs - Literacy programs will take place Monday through Friday beginning June 21st through July 12th. The primary and intermediate literacy programs serving grades K-2 and 3-5 are designed for those CSD students who are no more than one level behind in their reading. The focus is on maintaining reading skills. The primary community summer program is open to all CSD residents. Tuition of \$180 per student is charged for this program.

Girls In Technology - Two concurrent programs for those CSD students entering grades 5 and 6 and grades 7 and 8 will be held Monday to Friday at 9:00-noon from June 17-28. The goals of this program are to establish community, increase girls' confidence in exploring computers and to connect science and technology to relevant context of interest to girls. A female engineer has been invited to mentor girls this summer during the program. Suggestions were made regarding scheduling of the course, partnering with another summer program for their afternoon session, and opening enrollment to students who do not attend CSD. Dr. McKeane will follow up at the next meeting.

Music Programs - Three music programs will be offered this summer. *Instrumental Music* will provide small group lessons once per week; *Music Composition* will be offered this year and new this summer is *Singfest* for CSD students entering grades 3-7 which will include choral and general music.

Credit retrieval – PWHS Principal Jason Bacani provided an overview of the plan for credit retrieval this summer. Students will have the opportunity to recover their credits on-line utilizing Educere programming which is most closely aligned with the CSD curriculum. Last year 25 students registered for 33 courses and all students were successful utilizing Educere. The program will be held for six calendar weeks from June 18-July 25th at the PWHS library. Mr. Bacani noted that data is currently being reviewed to determine which students will be eligible to participate.

Mr. Bacani stated that PWHS administrators are preparing an issue brief on opportunities to use Educere at the building level for students during the school year, rather than waiting until summer. Dr. McKeane noted that a teacher monitors students to be sure there are no large gaps in their learning/progress. We will also explore enrichment during the summer and during the school year.

CSD Curriculum and PA CCS: Language Arts Curriculum Supervisor Kathleen Hamill reported that the national Common Core Standards originated in July 2010. Pennsylvania has adopted the standards and adapted them accordingly. Since that time, CSD has been working to develop awareness of standards, provide professional development to staff and determine implications for curricular/assessment revisions. Donna Gaffney and Mrs. Hamill have also been working closely with administrators and teacher leaders to establish structure, long and short term goals, increase rigor and make instructional shifts in preparation for aligning our curriculum with the State Common Core Standards. Staff will be provided with an overview in March/April and alignment will be done during the spring and summer. Curricular/assessment revisions will be shared with staff during August professional development, implemented in September and monitored throughout the year. Grades 3-8 PSSA will be fully aligned to PA Common Core Standards by 2015.

Math – Donna Gaffney spoke about changes in grade level expectations more closely related to precursors for algebra. Math resources have been upgraded in grades K and 2 and will be upgraded in September for grades 1 and 3. Math curriculum in grades 4-5 will be aligned with the PA Common Core Standards. Continuation of resources for grades 4-5 is being explored. Sixth grade curriculum has been implemented this year and will flow into 7th grade next year. The focus in grades 9-12 is on Keystone as end of year course exam.

Feb 15th PD: To assist with School Improvement Planning, the CIA department provides each building with a profile of student performance, including PSSA and benchmark assessment data. In setting goals, the elementary buildings identified a need for professional development in the area of metacognition. Mrs. Gaffney developed a foundational session that was presented to each elementary building. Highlights from this session were shared including the how to coach students to be more self-aware, develop their ability to evaluate and regulate their thinking process and learn to transfer their knowledge across content areas. A short video of metacognition in the classroom was shown.

Mrs. Gaffney also shared preparations and provided an overview of the ½ day PD on February 15th.

Informational Updates:

Parent-Community Outreach – After a one year hiatus, Mrs. Hamill indicated that we will hold another Parent-Community Outreach session this year to enforce the links between Kindergarten and pre-k.

Writing Field Test – Mrs. Hamill reported that the writing field test is complete. Feed back indicated that it was challenging.

Keystone Follow-up – Mr. Bacani noted that Wave One of the Keystone tests is complete. The next Wave will be in May (Literacy, Biology, Algebra).

Conference Requests – A conference request was reviewed for CMS Principal Bob Fahler and CMS teacher Carie Litz to attend a conference on Understanding Anger Control (preventing students from becoming victims of bullying) on February 20th in East Brunswick, NJ sponsored by

Cross Country Education. Consensus was given to present this request at the Colonial Board of School Directors Meeting on February 14, 2013.

Dr. McKeaney recognized Donna Gaffney's years of service at CSD and wished her well in her new position as Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development at MCIU. Dr. McKeaney looks forward to working together in partnership with Mrs. Gaffney in her new position at the IU.

Public Comment

Discussion Items: There being no discussion items, the meeting was adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

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