

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes May 13, 2013

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, May 13, 2013 in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Curriculum Committee Chairman Mel Brodsky. Present were Board Members: Christina Frangiosa, Kathleen Oxberry and Heather Palmer; Superintendent, Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer; Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Dr. Liz McKeaney; Curriculum Supervisors: Sergio Anaya, Kathleen Hamill and Maria Wileczek; PWHS Science teacher Rich Coletta; Plymouth Elementary School Reading Specialist Cecilia Quarino; Kaitlin Bonner, ESL teacher; Ridge Park Technology Teacher Brian Adams; PWHS 10th grade student Prabidha Lama; community member Linda Doll; and Marge Gramlich.

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

iPad Pilot: Dr. Liz McKeaney provided an historical perspective of Colonial School District's iPad pilot. Sergio Anaya spoke about the four groups participating in the iPad pilots this year: Plymouth Elementary Reading Specialists are piloting the use of the iPad for remedial work, and to enrich learning; PWHS Science Department is exploring content Apps, K-12 ESL students for assistance in accessing academic curriculum and K-3 technology teachers.

K-12 pilot – Kaitlin Bonner demonstrated ways that the iPad has helped her communicate with ESL students, particularly in translating lessons and to increase student understanding of content.

PWHS student Prabidha Lama described how she uses her iPad in Art and Science classes and the Apps she uses to take notes.

Mr. Anaya noted that K-3 computer labs were completely restructured. Ridge Park teacher Brian Adams shared the new configuration of the lab at Ridge Park. He focused on student communication and collaboration, while working on 21st century skills, differentiation and parent communication using iPads. He demonstrated a 2nd grade science project and a Puppet Pals App used collaboratively by Ridge Park Kindergarten students.

Celia Quarino spoke about the iPad pilot at Plymouth Elementary by K-3 Reading Specialists. She highlighted a parent communication function that enables the teacher to email to parents a segment of dialog during a lesson with their child. She also showed a project using *Wixie* which combines many Apps into one program for ease of use. The second, teacher training phase of this pilot is being implemented.

Heather Palmer Asked Celia how she determined student progress. Celia responded that benchmarks show student growth. Mr. Anaya remarked that students have exceeded skill sets from last year and we have had to redesign the rigor of our curriculum to keep up with student progress. He noted that both vocabulary and spelling grades have increased.

PWHS Science Teacher Rich Coletta spoke about the process of working out the kinks with the Apps in the high school Science Department pilot program. Mr. Coletta noted the time needed by teachers to prepare for bringing iPads into the classroom and for student use. Apps have been used in Science classes for remediation and extension. Mr. Coletta noted that using the iPad in the

classroom has saved a great deal of student learning time. He also said he receives immediate feedback on how well students are doing using iPads for student quizzes. Students are doing better than they have in the past.

Mr. Anaya stated that SIOP teachers will be next to get iPads for their classrooms.

Dr. McKeaney acknowledged the lesson planning and preparation time and thanked the teachers for their enthusiasm. Mr. Brodsky noted that CSD views the iPads as another very effective teaching tool, not as a replacement for teachers or curriculum.

Teacher Effectiveness: Dr. McKeaney noted that professional development has been provided for building administrators and teacher representatives on identifying evidence that supports teacher effectiveness standards established by the Pa. Department of Education. Dr. Gorodetzer provided an historical perspective of the previous CSD teacher supervision and evaluation. Dr. McKeaney spoke about the continual review of legal requirements of Act 82. With the exceptions of the observational tool and the format, the remainder of this protocol has not yet been determined by the state. More information is expected in late June, 2013.

Informational Updates: Mrs. Wileczek reported that 22 girls have enrolled in the CSD *Girls in Technology* Program beginning on June 17th.

Public Comment: There were no public comments.

Discussion Items: There being no discussion items, the meeting was adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

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