

## Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes

October 8, 2012

*The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, October 8, 2012 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 President Alan Tabachnick; Board Members: Leslie Feingold, Christina Frangiosa, Julie Knudsen 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; PWHS Principal Jason Bacani; community member Linda Doll; and Marge Gramlich.*

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

**Student Achievement Report:** Dr. McKeaney presented Colonial School District's Student Achievement Report. She discussed the comparison of PSSA data across Montgomery County. Highlights included top rankings in Math for CSD's third, fifth and eighth grade student, with 11<sup>th</sup> graders scoring in the top third of the county. PSSA Reading student performance also continues to rank high when compared to districts across the county.

Dr. Gorodetzer explained performance variations associated with students transferring into CSD, especially in ninth grade. Additionally, Donna Gaffney, Math Curriculum Supervisor, noted the challenges associated with comparing performance levels across grades. She noted that there is a significant difference in the content being assessed. She is currently working with secondary staff to investigate text and electronic resources that will support teachers and students in meeting the new PA Common Core Standards and Keystone Exam expectations.

ACT college readiness test was discussed. Dr. McKeaney noted that the number of students choosing to take the ACT has dramatically increased. CSD students meeting the college readiness benchmarks established for this test exceeds state and national ACT benchmark performance levels.

A summary of SAT scores was also shared. PWHS overall mean SAT scores consistently exceed state and national averages. A comparison of the mean top 100 SAT scores in CSD indicates increased performance in reading, math and writing since 2008. The CSD mean top 20 SAT scores exceed 730 in all areas.

**AP Testing.** The total number of AP exams taken by PWHS students has increased 47 percent since 2007. The percentage of students scoring 4 and 5 on AP exams remains consistently high. The percentage of PWHS students scoring 3 or above far exceeds percentages noted for state and global results.

**Keystone Exams:** Jason Bacani said PWHS Administrators and CIA have been working collaboratively to discuss Keystones windows/waves and to identify the appropriate students to take the exams. Mr. Bacani will communicate information to parents about the Keystone exams by the end of October. It was noted that each 11<sup>th</sup> grader must complete the assessment this year;

however, in the future students in other grades will be able to take the tests. We will continue to concentrate on critical thinking and problem solving skills, rather than or teaching only what is covered on the Keystone exams. Mrs. Frangiosa thanked the CIA team for all their hard work.

**Federal Programs Approval:** Mrs. Hamill, Federal Programs Coordinator, reported that CSD's 2012 federal program budget has been approved. CSD will receive \$14,000 less in funding this year which will impact utilization of personnel who were paid with federal funds in the past. Funding continues to diminish yearly.

**Weatherill:** Maria Bellino attended a meeting of the parks and recreation department to determine usage of grounds which were donated to the township. She stated that Eileen Spector and Special Education teacher, Steph Wargo, will meet to identify a time a visit the grounds by life skills students. Ms. Bellino will keep the Board updated. The next meeting is scheduled for December.

**Best Practices Fair:** On November 6, 2012 CSD will hold a Best Practices Fair. This is a full day of staff development facilitated by 100 teachers who have submitted proposals to share best practices with their colleagues. Teachers can select four sessions of interest to attend throughout the day. Dr. McKeaney encouraged Board members to attend the Best Practices Fair. They will be sent an electronic version of the Best Practices Fair catalog and can contact Bunnie Swetkowski to inform her of which sessions they wish to attend.

**Conference Requests:** Two conference requests were reviewed for Dr. Mike McKenna and Ridge Park teacher Linda Colantonio to attend the Blue Ribbon Schools Program in Washington, DC on Nov 11-13<sup>th</sup>. Consensus was given to present this request at the Colonial Board of School Directors Meeting on October 18th.

**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