

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes January 6, 2014

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, January 6, 2014 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, Susan Moore, Vice-President, Beth Suchsland; Board Members: Christina Frangiosa, Leslie Finegold, Heather Palmer, Bernie Brady, Superintendent, Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer; Director of Special Education and Pupil Services, Karen Berk; Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Dr. Liz McKeaney; Curriculum Supervisors: Sergio Anaya, Dr. Katy Giovanisci, Gina Nelson, Maria Wileczek, PWHS Principal, Jason Bacani, Community Member, Linda Doll, and Nancy Aiken.

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

Curriculum Committee Chairman Mel Brodsky opened the meeting asking for any public comments and there were none. Dr. McKeaney then welcomed Principal of PWHS, Jason Bacani to the meeting.

Dr. Liz McKeaney provided copies of the CSD Annual Student Achievement Report and shared highlights of the report which includes student performance on state and national assessments: Pennsylvania System of School Assessment; Keystone Exams; Pennsylvania School Performance Profile; Advanced Placement Highlights; and College and Career Readiness. She acknowledged that the five year trend of high student achievement levels is a direct reflection of the collaboration and hard work of parents, students, teachers, administration and staff across the district.

Some highlights included student performance on the 2013 PSSA tests. In third grade, 96% of CSD students scored proficient in math and nearly 92% scored proficient in reading. In grade 5, more than 90% of CES students scored proficient in math. There was a slight decrease in reading performance, a trend that was found statewide in 2013. Most impressive was CMS student performance on the grade 8 PSSA, with more than 90% scoring proficient in reading and math. Of note, more than 70% of grade 8 students scored advanced in reading and math.

Questions were raised about the elimination of the modified PSSA (PSSA-M) exam and the addition of PA Core Field test items. It was noted that these changes likely resulted in lower achievement levels, specifically for students with special needs. Additional data analysis will be conducted by the Curriculum Department to address areas of concern.

Dr. McKeaney presented an overview of the Keystone Exams. In 2013, Keystone Exams replaced the 11th grade (or high school level) PSSA. Rather than testing an overall understanding of math and reading, the Keystone Exams target the specific standards for high school courses in Biology, Literature and Algebra I. Because it was the first year of the Keystone Exams, all eleventh grade PWHS students took the three assessments. This means that many students may have taken an exam a year or more after taking the course (i.e. students taking Honors Biology in grade 9). Ninth and tenth grade students also took Keystone Exams

last year, but only after taking the appropriate course. All students graduating in 2017 (current 9th grade class) and younger are required to score proficient on each Keystone Exam to meet PA graduation requirements. The 2013 results showed that PWHS students scored well above the state:

Algebra: 79.6% Proficient (40.6 % higher than state)
Biology: 74.7% Proficient (44 % higher than state)
Literature: 86.5% Proficient (29.2% higher than state)

Mr. Jason Bacani discussed the PWHS scores and shared that students are monitored and supported through continuous data reports and benchmark analysis. If needed, remedial supports and interventions are provided to students during and after school in math and literacy.

Dr. McKeaney noted that PWHS students continue to challenge themselves and excel in Advanced Placement courses. More than 35% of 2013 PWHS graduates scored a 3 or higher on an AP test at some point during their high school careers. Over the past five years, the number of PWHS students taking AP courses has grown significantly. In 2013, PWHS recognized 94 AP Scholars, the most in the school's history.

Information regarding the new Pennsylvania School Performance Profile (SPP) was shared. Dr. McKeaney noted that the SPP replaces Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as a measure of school effectiveness. A brief overview of the Building level academic scores was shared, as well as, the complexity surrounding factors related to calculations of these data.

Additional information regarding the Student Achievement Report will occur at the next Curriculum Committee of the Board meeting.

Information Updates:

Curriculum Website: Parent Resources

Mrs. Gina Nelson, CSD K-12 Mathematics Coordinator, shared that she and Ms. Kim Newell, Assistant Public Relations Coordinator, are in the process of restructuring the elementary math resources posted on the new CSD website. Mrs. Nelson stated that the current page includes links to parent letters aligning to the *Investigations* resource, demonstrating the math in the units of study. It will also include activities to try at home, which align to the units and suggestions for helping children with homework. Kim and Gina will continue the restructuring of the current list of online resources to include support documents for parents and a new design for the page itself.

K-12 Tech Byte Night:

Sergio Anaya shared that K-12 Tech Byte Night has been rescheduled to January 21, 2014. Currently, 91 people registered to attend. The registered population is equally distributed throughout the district both elementary and high school. The workshops will focus on the following applications: Edmodo, Wixie, Dream box, Google drive, Power school, CSD Website, Naviance, Weebly, Prezi, iPads, Scratch, Legos, and Robotics.

Conference Requests:

Three conference requests were presented for approval. Andrew Boegly and Steve Price – Washington, DC – CoSN 2014 Annual Tech Conference and Rich Madel – N.E. Conference of Teachers of Foreign Languages.

Discussion Items: There were no items for discussion

Public Comment: There were no public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy C. Aiken
Administrative Assistant to the Director of
Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment