

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes February 10, 2014

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, February 10, 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, Superintendent, Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer; Director of Special Education and Pupil Services, Karen Berk; Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Dr. Liz McKeaney; Curriculum Supervisors: 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.

Early Admissions for Kindergarten

Karen Berk, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education presented recommendations for updating CSD Board Policy No. 201 Early Admission to School and Policy No. 201.1 Entrance Age to Kindergarten. Recommendations included removing policy 201.1 due to redundancy in the language presented in 201. Mrs. Berk also recommended changing the title of Policy 201 from Early Admission to School to Admission of Beginners. She also presented updates to the language and guidelines regarding eligibility to Kindergarten entrance. These recommendations will be presented at the upcoming Executive Session of the Board on February 20, 2014.

Summer Programs

Dr. Katy Giovanisci presented information on the elementary summer literacy program for CSD-resident students currently enrolled in Kindergarten through grade five. The Summer Literacy Blast program will operate on Monday through Friday, beginning Wednesday, June 18 through Thursday, July 3, 2014 and held at Colonial Elementary School. Typically, the program has run for 15 days, however with respect to family schedules, she is proposing that the program end July 3rd. To help sustain student progress over the summer, Katy is exploring various online options. It was recommended that a teacher leader monitor student progress and online use after the program ends and provide incentives to students who take advantage of this option.

Maria Wileczek, Science Curriculum Supervisor, proposed Colonial School District renew the Girls in Technology 4.0 Summer Program for female students entering 5th through 8th grades, due to the success of previous programs. Two half-day programs will operate Monday through Friday, June 16 through June 27, 2014. Maria stated that the research consistently shows, exposing females to technological, scientific and computer-based curriculum topics/courses, as early as possible, will increase their likelihood to pursue such items in the future.

Karen Berk, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education, provided preliminary information about the Extended School Year (ESY) summer program. It will tentatively run through the month of July, Mondays – Thursdays, from 9:00 -1:00 for those special education students who qualify based on state criteria. This summer Chestnut Hill College education students fulfilling their pre-student teaching field experience hours will serve in the capacity of Instructional Aides. More information will be provided at a later date.

Achievement Report

Dr. Liz McKeaney provided updated copies of the CSD Annual Student Achievement Report and reviewed highlights of the report which includes student performance on state and national assessments: calculations for Pennsylvania School Performance Profile; Advanced Placement Highlights; and College and Career Readiness. She provided information regarding the number of students who take the SAT and ACT. Maria Wileczek provided information regarding colleges that use SAT and ACT test scores in the local area. She noted that some universities do not require either test for acceptance and many accept both tests.

Information Updates:

AP Protocol

Jason Bacani, PWHS Principal provided information on AP Protocol. He stated that PWHS offers a number of courses that prepare students to take AP Exams which can result in college credit. All students who enroll in AP courses at PWHS must take the AP Exam. Any student who declines to take the AP Exam for any reason in any given course will have their transcript modified to reflect the removal of the AP designation. Jason stated that in a given academic calendar year, when a student takes more than one approved AP courses, PWHS will pay for the second AP exam; Students are required to pay for the first.

Conference Requests: No Conference Requests

Discussion Items: Dr. McKeaney discussed curriculum that addresses the Holocaust. She noted that a unit of study on the Holocaust is in the 8th grade LA Curriculum, as well as, in the Social Studies core curriculum and elective. Field trips, as well as, various activities related to the Holocaust are offered. There are also historical resources available at various grade levels that address teaching tolerance, character, acceptance and respecting differences. Beyond the curriculum, students participate in character education to broaden social awareness at developmentally appropriate times in their educational experiences at CSD.

Public Comment: There were no public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

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