

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes August 13, 2013

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Tuesday, August 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 Vice-President, Mrs. Susan Moore; Board Members: Leslie Finegold, Beth Suchsland; Superintendent, Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer; Director of Special Education and Pupil Services, Karen Berk; Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Dr. Liz McKeane; Curriculum Supervisors: Sergio Anaya, Dr. Katy Giovanisci and Maria Wileczek; Plymouth Whitmarsh High School Principal, Jason Bacani; community member Linda Doll, and Nancy Aiken.

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

Dr. Liz McKeane opened up the meeting and welcomed Dr. Katy Giovanisci to the Curriculum Department as K-12 Language Arts Curriculum Supervisor.

BYOD: Jason Bacani, Plymouth Whitmarsh High School Principal, discussed the benefits of the Bring Your Own Device ("BYOD") program to improve student learning experiences through collaboration, communication and critical thinking in the classroom while facilitating safe and productive use of personal devices.

He addressed how the PWHS administration in partnership with curriculum supervisors, technology department and teacher leaders will support teachers in their goals to include the use of personal devices as a supplement to existing school resources and help students understand how their personal devices can be a tool for their own learning.

The roll out of this program will be in the Fall- second semester and the teachers will implement BYOD at their discretion and use sound professional judgment when creating opportunities for students to use personal devices in the classroom. Students will register their devices with the technology department and must sign-in when using them.

There will be a half-day learning session during the August Professional Development dedicated to BYOD. The goal is for teachers to become more comfortable with the implementation of this program in their classrooms. The benefits of BYOD will be on the agenda of the Parent Forum in October to explain the policies to parents.

Summer Programs:

GIRLS IN TECHNOLOGY: Maria Wileczek, Science Curriculum Supervisor, and Sergio Anaya, Social Studies Curriculum Supervisor, planned, coordinated, and facilitated the Girls in Technology Program. Mrs. Wileczek and Mr. Anaya oversaw the two week program which ran from June 17th-28th. Over the course of two weeks, 26 girls attended and were instructed by 5 different teachers in the areas of: computer animation, graphic design, robotics and engineering, digital photography and iPad applications. The program closed with all students completing a survey and receiving certificates for their participation. They had the best enrollment this year compared to past years for all ages interested in the program. The grant money received from Quaker Chemical decreased the cost of the program which made the offering of the course more affordable to students this year.

Mrs. Wilczek has been in contact with Emily Buck, from the engineering department of Drexel University to partner with Drexel to bridge career and college opportunities for female students interested in engineering.

SUMMER MUSIC FEST: Dr. Liz McKeane spoke about the Summer Music Fest Program that took place at PWHS from June 24th-June 28th. The camp took place from 9am-3pm each day. Music instructors Tracy O'Shea and Maria O'Connor worked with 73 students in grades one through six. The students focused on vocal technique and choreography culminating in a performance. The performance took place Friday, June 28th, at 2:30PM. The students were fortunate to have a live band accompany them as they performed for a large audience of family and friends. PWHS students Michelle Ferguson, Sammi Baker, Kate Sellers, and Minaya Ismayilova volunteered to assist with the camp through National Honor Society.

ESY SUMMER PROGRAM: Karen Berk spoke on the Extended School Year (ESY) program for students to work on summer academic goals. This program is offered to students to allow them to maintain their skills throughout the summer so when school starts again the student will be ready to start the school year without a lapse of skills. The program had 46 students participate in it this year. Each student participates in seventeen instructional hours with individual goals and data collected for each student. All students met their IEP goals. The program had two autistic support classes. There was a life skills café offered two mornings a week and 50% of the students showed improvement with IEP Goals. Ms. Berk stated it is mandated by both state and federal mandates that CSD runs the program, but it is not mandated that the students attend.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM: Dr. Katy Giovanisci, K-12 Language Arts Curriculum Supervisor spoke about the CSD Elementary Summer Literacy Programs that were run by Kathleen Hamill the former K-12 Language Arts Curriculum Supervisor. There were 111 students who participated in the Literacy Programs, housed by Conshohocken Elementary School. Attendance was stable and the end of program data revealed that the K-2 program assisted 20% of the students to increase one instructional level in reading while 80% maintained. 33% increased one proficiency level in writing while 68% maintained. In the 3-5 programs, 27% of the students increased one instructional level in reading while 73% maintained. 19% of the students increased one proficiency level in writing, while 81% maintained.

CREDIT RECOVERY: Mr. Bacani gave a report on the credit recovery program held at PWHS. He stated that 23 students attended and have credits to recover. The courses were offered online. Some students completed the work in the library on the computer. A summery will be provided to Dr. McKeane at the end of August when the course is finished. Dr. McKeane and Superintendent Dr. Gorodetzer will be looking for data upon completion at will address this issue at the next board meeting.

Curriculum supervisors provided a brief summary of PSSA/Keystone Data.

Dr. Giovanisci discussed the Summer Wave of PA Keystone testing. Students eligible for summer retakes were able to access practice resources online to reach the greatest level of proficiency. On July 30, July 31 and August 1, Keystone retake sessions for each content area were held at PWHS. Students were assigned to a room and completed their assessment online. She reported that Keystone results in Literature were much higher than student performance across the state (24%). County data is not yet available for comparison.

Dr. Giovanisci reported that student performance on the PSSA in Reading remains exceptionally high in grades three and eight (above 90% proficient); however there was a slight dip in the PSSA scores in grade five due to the elimination of the PSSA modified test. Preliminary analysis of data across the state shows a similar pattern in grade 5 reading scores.

Dr. McKeaney shared the Algebra I PA Keystone results. Based on preliminary data she received in July, PWHS student scores are considerably higher than the state (39.7%).

Student performance on the PSSA Mathematics assessments also remains notably high at above 90% in grades three, five and eight.

Maria Wileczek reported that student results on the PA Biology Keystone assessment yielded a similar pattern when compared to the state data. PWHS student scores were considerably higher than student performance across the state. Grade four students performed quite well on the Science PSSA, above 90% proficient. The percentage of grade eight students scoring proficient in Science increased from last year, up 8% (84% proficient).

Once final calculations are posted on PDE's data management system, Dr. McKeaney will prepare a full data report highlighting student performance on PA Keystone tests and PSSA.

Informational Updates:

Induction: 3 day Induction Program for new teaches is being held August 20th, 21st, 22. Dr. McKeaney thanked Maria Wileczek for working on it.

August PD: August Professional Development is being held 26th, 27th, 28, 29th. Dr. McKeaney thanked Dr. Giovanisci for her work with Professional Development.

Federal Programs: Application submitted – Audit in the Spring (policy)

Dr. McKeaney spoke on Atlas Rubicon and described it as a curriculum mapping tool used by teachers as a resource tool used for curriculum mapping, curriculum updates and PA Common Core standards monitoring and tracking. Roll-out will continue this fall and shared with classroom teachers during August Professional Development.

Discussion Items: Printer updates will be addressed at August PD.

Public Comment: There were no public comments at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

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

