

## Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes September 16, 2013

*The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, September 16, 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 President Mr. Alan Tabachnick, Vice-President, Mrs. Susan Moore; Board Members: Mrs. Kathleen Oxberry; 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, Maria Wileczek and Gina Nelson, Math Coordinator; Plymouth Whitmarsh High School Principal, Jason Bacani; Colonial Middle School Principal, Robert Fahler; 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. McKeane then welcomed Gina Nelson as a Math Coordinator and Dr. Katy Giovanisci as Language Arts Supervisor.

### **Secondary Initiatives:**

Dr. Liz McKeane highlighted secondary initiatives and provided background regarding ongoing discussion regarding various scheduling options with the goal of expanding time for students to develop a stronger foundation in mathematics and inquiry based learning. Research and visitations to various districts in the tri-county area have been conducted to find a model to best meet the needs CSD's priorities. She indicated that a balance hybrid approach may be most beneficial. Dr. McKeane then asked the high school and middle school principals to share the strategic planning/scheduling initiative currently underway. Secondary scheduling goals included increase instructional time to best support 21<sup>st</sup> Century Teaching and Learning and increasing flexibility in course selection for students. A collaborative committee has been established to meet with a consultant and to develop various scheduling options for both buildings. Updates will be provided in January and an action plan will be drafted by the end of the school year.

### **Conference Requests:**

Three conference requests were presented for approval. One request is from a high school counselor that will be visiting a university and the other two requests were from two world language teachers who were asked to be presenters at the upcoming PSMLA Conference and who hope to exchange ideas and strategies regarding Best Practices in World Language instruction.

### **Informational Updates:**

**PDE:** Liz provided updates on Chapter 4 changes regarding PA Common Core Standards, School Performance Profile (building level data) and comprehensive/strategic planning. She also shared other provisions other Chapter 4 proposals including Keystone Exams, high school graduation requirements, and supplemental instruction for students in need of retaking Keystone.

### **Credit Retrieval Summary:**

Mr. Bacani provided information regarding the percentage of students participating in the credit retrieval summer courses, noting a decline in the number of students that need to take summer courses.

**Summer Reading Program- Update:**

Dr. Giovanisci provided an update on student participation in the elementary summer reading programs.

**Discussion Items:**

A question regarding high school students being able to take summer school courses at another school and obtain credit was asked. Dr. Gorodetzer shared that each request is handled on a case by case basis. Dr. McKeane stated that should a student request to take a course at another school, the curriculum must be aligned with Colonial's.

**Public Comment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

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