

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes November 11, 2013

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, November 11, 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: Christina Frangiosa, Leslie Finegold, Beth Suchsland, 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: Sergio Anaya, Dr. Katy Giovanisci, Maria Wileczek and, PWHS Principal, Jason Bacani and Assistant Principal Joseph Carracappa, CMS 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. McKeaney then welcomed Assistant Principal and Principal to PWHS, Joseph Carracappa and Jason Bacani along with Principal to CMS, Robert Fahler.

PW Academy:

Joe Carracappa shared PW Academy's mission was to provide students, who have experienced difficulty in the traditional school setting, with the educational opportunities and supports necessary for them to develop academic, social, and behavioral skills needed to be successful.

Karen Berk added ways in which PW Academy is addressing the non-traditional learner by combining online coursework and web-based tutorial programming with in-person instructional assistance. Academy students receive emotional support within the framework of a flexible schedule and program planning. Vocational and/or job training is also an option.

PWHS/CMS Scheduling:

Dr. Liz McKeaney provided a brief overview of scheduling goals at PWHS and CMS. She introduced Jason Bacani who highlighted aspects of the PWHS Strategic Planning/Scheduling Committee. Members are in the process of reflecting and gathering feedback regarding PWHS' current schedule and its drawbacks, as well as, positives such as high achievement levels. The committee leaders conducted a survey with the entire faculty based upon the current schedule and "new" schedule options. This information was then shared during the morning PD session with nationally renowned scheduling consultant Dr. Michael Rettig. As a consultant, Dr. Rettig works with 500 school districts in 36 states annually.

Robert Fahler reported that the CMS Scheduling Committee and a teacher from each grade level also worked with Dr. Rettig. They are in the process of gathering feedback from their team leaders and curriculum liaisons regarding the best schedule options for middle school students. They are going to meet again at the end of November to continue their research. The goal for

implementation would be the 2014-15 school year. Bob offered that Dr. Rettig was excellent in his presentation and listening to the needs of CMS with population, teachers and placement.

Information Updates:

Educator Effectiveness:

Dr. McKeaney provided information on the rollout of PA Educator Effectiveness as per Act 82. Mrs. Maria Wileczek spoke about how CSD is rolling it out through professional development to its teachers. The observation/evidence instrument being used by PDE is the Danielson Framework for Teaching which mirrors CSD's Standard for Teaching that CSD teachers have been using for over a decade. PDE standards and four domains and rubrics are being rolled out in faculty meetings and professional development.

K-12 Tech Byte Night:

Sergio Anaya shared that he has put together a small committee consisting of Dr. Katy Giovanisci, Brian Adams, Amy Venkus, Dave Caruso and Sara Frey to plan, coordinate and produce a Technology Night for CSD parents. Parents have received a brief survey that was sent home to determine the level of interest per grade and which applications they would like to review at each session. CSD parents have showed an overwhelming interest in this event. They would appreciate the support of the CSD staff to help them "tinker" with technology in an effort to support their children at home. The "Tech Byte Night" committee currently consists of individuals from various grade levels and content areas who are eager to meet the needs of the parents in the community. 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:

Four conference requests were presented for approval. Patricia Tamborello - University of Richmond: Making the Connection and Dr. Liz McKeaney, Dr. Katy Giovanisci and Sergio Anaya – Imagine Learning Partnership Forum, Provo, Utah. No Cost to the District.

Discussion Items:

Beth Suchsland asked a question about weighted classes regarding regular or AP classes. The question was addressed.

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

