

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes April 13, 2015

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, April 13, 2015 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; Board Vice-President, Beth Suchsland; Board Members: Leslie Finegold, Heather Palmer, Christina Frangiosa, Bernie Brady; Superintendent, Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer; Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Dr. Liz McKeaney; Curriculum Supervisors: Maria Wileczek, Dr. Katy Giovanisci, Sergio Anaya and Curriculum Coordinator, Gina Nelson; PWHS Principal, Dr. Jason Bacani; and Linda Turner

Curriculum Committee Chairman Mel Brodsky opened the meeting asking for any public comments and there were none. Dr. McKeaney then welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

Textbook Approval/Demo

Mrs. Wileczek provided an overview and demonstration of the new Biology textbook being recommended for board approval. Scheduling updates and a new text will enable teachers to delve deeper into the curriculum, focusing on more process and skills, through laboratory investigations, science notebooking, STEAM applications, and research. The Glencoe Biology resource has resources for differentiation (e.g. leveled text) which will assist teachers in meeting the needs of all students. The resource aims to offer students the conceptual framework, factual knowledge, and analytical skills once assumed in the Physical Science Curriculum through its STEAM focus and Next Generation Science template. The Glencoe Biology Resource provides rich on-line resources including: 3-D images, intuitive self-tests, adaptive reading activities, simulations and differentiated laboratory investigations.

Mrs. Nelson provided highlights from the *Pearson Integrated High School Mathematics Common Core 2014* for Integrated Math Courses at PWHS. This resource is being recommended to replace Core Plus as the primary resource for all levels of Integrated Mathematics at the high school. The program will support an integrated curriculum of algebra and functions, geometry and trigonometry, statistics and probability and discrete mathematics. Students will have opportunities to explore mathematical relationships and build upon their individual level of understanding utilizing the wealth of on-line resources that align to the text. The on-line platform also creates an environment where the publisher will provide the most up-to-date version of all documents in real time ensuring that the resource remains updated. Math XL is included as a tool that provides a platform where students can get step-by-step help, a worked out example of a problem, practice an infinite number of problems, a video, or email the teacher so that students can receive help with homework. The online resource study plan component provides an infinite number of practice problems aligning to each lesson.

Advanced Course Options – PWHS Students

Dr. Jason Bacani shared an overview of the AP program and course options for PWHS students. Dr. Bacani stated that the goals of the AP program are to provide opportunities for students to enroll in the most rigorous courses PWHS has to offer and to prepare students for post secondary experiences by providing challenging course offerings in a variety of content areas/pathways.

PWHS currently offers over 20 Advanced Placement courses (typically the most offered in Montgomery County). Dr. Bacani reported that our students continue to perform well, with 81% earning a score of 3.0 or higher. Dr. McKeaney noted that our AP scores are continually monitored and analyzed to improve student performance on AP exams.

Discussion Items: There was no discussion items presented.

Public Comment: There were no public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Turner
Administrative Assistant
Office of the Superintendent