

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes January 12, 2015

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, January 12, 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 Members: Leslie Finegold and Heather Palmer; Superintendent, Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer; Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Dr. Liz McKeaney; Curriculum Supervisors: Maria Wileczek and Sergio Anaya; Sara Frey, Instructional Media Specialist; and Brian Adams, Technology Teacher and Instructional Technology Liaison; Community Member, Linda Doll; and Nancy Aiken.

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.

Innovative Curriculum/Practices

Dr. McKeaney introduced Sergio Anaya, SS, WL, HPE, Tech Ed, BIT, Art, Library/ESL Curriculum Supervisor; Sara Frey, Instructional Media Specialist; and Brian Adams, Technology Teacher and Instructional Technology Liaison who presented "Innovative Curriculum Practices" taking place in the Colonial School District. The focus of the presentation was on engaging CSD students in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) learning opportunities. Dr. McKeaney noted research studies suggest that engaging students in STEM and computer-based learning at an early age will help spark student interest as those subjects and encourage them to tackle more challenging courses in high school and beyond.

Sergio shared that the Technology Education Curriculum has been updated to reflect current trends occurring globally. Updates include introducing Coding into the curriculum at the primary level. The primary purpose of these curricular updates is to encourage CSD students to design and create innovative solutions for real life problems that affect real people. Sergio stated that students are engaged in five core areas: Digital Citizenship; Coding and Programming; Digital Storytelling; Creating and Designing; and Communication and Collaboration. These core areas will set a foundation to create a STEM culture at CSD.

Teaching coding in kindergarten help our youngest students learn vital creativity and problem-solving skills that will position them for success as they prepare for careers that are not even developed. Updated curriculum is being implemented in the Technology Specialists rotations at the elementary school. Programs include: Daisy the Dinosaur coding application; ScratchJr; and Kodable. Discussion included ways technology can positively impact children's development and learning.

Maria Wileczek, Science Curriculum Supervisor and Title 1 Coordinator shared information on STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Maria noted that STEM is a culture that we are working to expand upon and further develop at CSD. She shared that the US Department of Labor estimates that there will be 8.6 million STEM jobs by the year 2018 and Pennsylvania will have 314,000 of these STEM jobs. Pennsylvania will be 7th in the country with 71% of the jobs in computing and 16% in traditional engineering.

Brian Adams, Technology Teacher and Instructional Technology Liaison, reported on teaching K-5 students coding and programming concepts that are necessary and a key component of technology literacy that is introduced in Kindergarten and expanded on throughout each students' technology education through the use of various programs and apps that are made available to the K-5 students. He noted that some of these resources build on different skill sets that provides a strong foundation for our students.

Sergio Anaya provided an overview of 6-12 Robotics Curriculum and some of the technology circuitry gadgets that are being used in the creation of various projects at CMS and PWHS: LittleBits, tiny circuits with specific functions that snap together with magnets; Arduino, a programming platform for making computers that can sense and control the physical world; MakeyMakey, a microcontroller that allows you to change how you control a computer; Squishy Circuits, creates circuits with conductive and insulated dough; and Conductive Paint, creates paper craft circuits using conductive paint and electronics.

Sara Frey, Instructional Media Specialist, shared that a small group of students at PWHS are involved with the Coding and Robotics course are learning to fly a Drone. They are in the process of putting together a team consisting of teachers, administrators and students to investigate uses for the Drone in the development of Curriculum and how it can be used to establish partnerships.

Sara shared information on NextFab which is a resource used to create the monogramming on the burlap bags given to the Board members. She noted that we are putting together a team to partner with NextFab on developing professional development for our CSD teachers. Sara also shared highlights of The Makerspace, located in PWHS, is a learning environment where students can come together to share materials and learn new skills. It is an inviting environment during I-Block. The Makerspace provides all students access to technologies and learning materials outside the classroom setting. The Makerspace hosts enrichment activities for technology and art courses, as well as, real life projects such as creating a 3-D printer and usable plastic mouse.

Sergio shared that he, Sara, and Brian have been accepted to present at the National ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education) Conference in Philadelphia. The Presentation will be on "How the MakerSpace is Gaining STEAM in our District." We will discuss the integration of Maker ideals across all grades while experimenting with our favorite resources. Our vision for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) is based on five skill sets and involves designing, creating, and testing products to accomplish goals or solving problems, as evident in students' fabrication of a prosthetic for a classmate.

Acceptable Use of Internet and School Computer Network – Policy #815

Mr. Boegly provided a copy of the *Acceptable use of Internet and School Computer Network Policy #815*. He noted that the district's Acceptable Use Policy would be presented to the Board on a "first read" basis in January.

District Level Title 1 Parent Involvement Policy #121

Maria Wileczek, Science Curriculum Supervisor and Title 1 Coordinator provided a copy of the updated CSD Board Policy #121 *District Wide Parental Involvement* and *Title I Parental Involvement*. Revisions were recommended prior to the CSD Federal Programs Audit to ensure compliance. She noted that the district's Policy #121 District Wide Parental Involvement and Title I Parental Involvement will be presented to the Board on a "first read" basis in January.

Dr. Gorodezter shared an article on possible legislation to protect student privacy and the best way to bring technology into the classroom without exposing students to commercial data mining.

Conference Requests

A conference request was reviewed for Mr. Andrew Boegly and Mr. Craig Leanness to attend a conference on Technology - COSN from March 16-19 in Atlanta, Georgia. A third conference request was presented for Mr. Rich Madel to attend the Conference on Foreign Language Teaching at Indiana University of Pennsylvania on April 17th, 2015 in Indiana, Pennsylvania. Consensus was given to present these requests at the Colonial Board of School Directors Meeting on January 22, 2015.

Discussion Items: There was no discussion items presented.

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