

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes April 14, 2016

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Thursday, April 14, 2016 in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Curriculum Committee Chairman, Leslie Finegold. Present were Board President, Susan Moore; Board Members: Mel Brodsky, Kathy Peduzzi; Felix Raimondo; Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Dr. Liz McKeane; Curriculum Supervisors: Sergio Anaya; Director of Technology, Andrew Boegly; Community Member, Linda Doll; and Nancy Aiken.

Curriculum Committee Chairman Leslie Finegold opened the meeting asking for any public comments and there were none. Dr. McKeane then welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

Curriculum Updates:

STEAM - Past to Present and Present to Future

Dr. McKeane shared the goal of the meeting was to highlight the “T” in STEAM Curriculum initiatives at CSD. She also provided an overview of the of the industry and university partnerships that are taken place with Next Fab Lab, LaSalle and Drexel Universities. She anticipates that this partnership will assist CSD in refining our college and career pathways as well as support our efforts in updating courses and writing electives to reflect expectations in college and industry. She added that making industry and university connections will help students who are pursuing STEAM-related paths and motivate unrepresented groups (such as females, English Language Learners, ethnic minorities, students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged, etc.) to explore this pathway.

Sergio also shared information regarding the positive aspects of partnering with NextFab, LaSalle and Drexel Universities: These include: increasing educator/student awareness and understanding of STEAM related careers; identifying common interests & complementary STEAM related endeavors; establishing mentorships between K-12 teachers and University Professors (e.g. LaSalle Innovative Fellows); encouraging innovation through challenges and competitions (e.g. LaSalle Open Minds Event and the CSD Jr. Challenge); and developing curriculum and relevant courses (i.e. Engineering, Business and Science and Technology).

Sergio Anaya, Curriculum Instructional Innovation Supervisor, presented a PowerPoint Presentation entitled “Putting the T in STEAM,” which focused on the CSD’s Information Design Curriculum and the technology updates occurring across the district. Updates on the K-5 Information Technology Curriculum were presented. This curriculum includes coding and programming, creativity and design, digital storytelling, and interdisciplinary contents. The resources used to support the updated K-5 curriculum includes: *PuppetPals*, *Lego*, *Kodable*, *Makey Makey*, *Scratch* and *littleBits*. Sergio also pointed out how the new schedules at CMS and PWHS with enhance student opportunities to explore STEAM courses such as Entrepreneur, Design and Innovation Department (“EDI”); Game Design Academy, which includes a Game Design Class and App Development Class; Innovation Competition, Science Interdisciplinary and the CMS MakerSpace.

An introduction to the Google Apps for Education pilot (“GAFE”) was provided and related policies. Google Apps is a core suite of communication and collaboration applications that allow students to work from any device on documents and projects. GAFE has an “office suite” of tools, documents, sheets, slides, and more that offers the ability to work from any device as well as share and collaborate with each other. Because all

Google Apps save to the cloud, teachers and students gain the flexibility to work from any computer or device. Students and teachers can collaborate together and both work on the document at the same time.

Andrew Boegly, Director of Technology, presented and discussed a “draft” of the parent letter that will be mailed out to parents in preparation for the roll out of the GAFE pilot and safety protocols in place at CSD. The use of all applications in this pilot is subject to Colonial School District’s “Acceptable Use Policy” available in the PW Student Handbook and on the District’s website. Drew is currently in the process of setting up domain and provisioning logins for students.

Conference Requests

A conference request was reviewed for Dr. Liz McKeane and Sergio Anaya to attend the MCIU/Apple Executive Briefing Conference from May 5-6, 2016 in Reston, Virginia. A conference request was presented for Leticia Rodriguez to attend the Labor Arbitration Institute Conference from July 25-26, 2016 in Baltimore, MD. Another conference request was presented for Jeff Blizzard to attend Landmark College from April 21-22, 2016 in Putney, Vermont. Consensus was given to present these requests at the Colonial Board of School Directors Meeting on April 21, 2016.

Discussion Items: There were no discussion items presented.

Public Comment: There were no public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

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