

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes February 14, 2017

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Tuesday, February 14, 2017 in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 4:32 pm by Curriculum Committee Chairperson, Leslie Finegold. Present were Board President, Susan Moore; Board Vice President Beth Suchsland; Board Members: Mel Brodsky and Cathy Peduzzi; Superintendent, Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer; Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Dr. Liz McKeaney; Curriculum Supervisors: Maria Wileczek and Sergio Anaya; Director of Technology, Andrew Boegly; Community Member, Linda Doll; and Linda Turner.

Curriculum Committee Chairperson Leslie Finegold 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.

Board Policies

Dr. McKeaney shared draft copies of the revisions to Board Policy #101 - Philosophy of Education and Board Policy #105 – Curriculum on a first read basis. The language of both policies have been updated to reflect school code. It was noted that the District Mission Statement outlined in Board Policy #101 would be reviewed and updated as part of the district's Comprehensive Plan which will be submitted to the PDE in November 2017. The committee was also asked to consider the addition of Board Policy #102 – Academic Standards on a first read basis. Dr. McKeaney asked that any comments be sent to Nicki Martin.

Data Management System (Performance Plus/LinkIt)

Drew Boegly reported that the district has been using Performance Tracker since 2005. In recent years the service has been lacking and no enhancements have been made. Dr. Boegly shared that we are piloting LinkIt, a data management system, through MCIU at no cost through July 1st. After July 1st, the pricing is based on a per student basis. With initial start up costs, the price would be approximately \$15.00 per student. Going forward the cost would be approximately \$5.00 per student which is what we are currently paying for Performance Tracker. The reporting features of this product are excellent. Reports can be customized to allow for in-depth data analysis on a multitude of levels to replace the labor intensive manually generated reports currently generated.

Curriculum Updates

Mr. Anaya reported that the Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) recently completed an audit of our computer science curriculum. Points of pride for Colonial School District's curriculum include a consistent and sustained focus on computational thinking and design process throughout the elementary curriculum leading into middle school.

Mr. Anaya shared that we are looking to partner with Drexel University on several initiatives in Engineering, Computer Science, and Video Production. Mr. Anaya and Mrs. Wilczek will work with Drexel representatives to review and audit our engineering and tech ed programs. This review will include an overview of the scope of courses and suggestions for curriculum writing. The opportunity for Drexel graduate students to co-teach at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School will also be explored. DCIU is applying for grant funds to support the pairings of Drexel graduate PhD students with local high school teachers through academic fellowships to enhance the math and science education of high school students. The high school students and K-12 teachers gain an appreciation for the science and mathematics concepts in an applied, real-world context. Concurrently, K-12 fellows become knowledgeable in pedagogy through direct application of their technical/scientific expertise in the context of a classroom setting, interaction with the teacher, and mentoring students.

It was further noted that STEM education is at the core of Drexel University and that it is important to reinforce and exhibit our core strengths. In working with faculty, administrators, students and staff across Drexel's campus, we are catalyzing new conversations and collaborative efforts to better support innovation in STEM teaching and learning.

School Climate Goals

Dr. McKeaney shared a copy of the district's School Climate Goals with the committee. The document outlined the district's guiding principles for ensuring that each student enjoys learning in a healthy, safe, and supportive learning environment. The document further detailed the goals and expectations at the elementary, middle school and high school levels. School climate goals are part of each building's annual school improvement plan. Building committees meet to develop plans tailored to their buildings.

Conference Requests

The committee reviewed conference requests for Assistant Principal Heather King to attend AVID District Director training in Columbia, SC from March 15-17, 2017 and for Dr. Liz McKeaney to attend the Education Week Leaders to Learn From conference in Washington, DC from March 31-April 1, 2017.

The committee was also asked to consider the request for Curriculum Supervisor Sergio Anaya, Assistant Principal Steve Price, PWHS teachers Jeff Yeagle, Bethany Rickard, Paul Marro, Anthony Musumeci, and CMS teachers Brooke Carpenter and Tom Pierantozzi to visit the Carnegie Mellon Create Lab and several school in the Pittsburgh School District from March 9-11, 2017.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Turner