

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes June 12, 2017

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, June 12, 2017 in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by Curriculum Committee Chairperson, Leslie Finegold. Present were Board President, Susan Moore; Board Members: Mel Brodsky, Felix Raimondo; Superintendent, Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer; Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Dr. Liz McKeaney; Curriculum Supervisors: Maria Wileczek, Sergio Anaya; CMS Principal, Mr. Robert Fahler, CMS Assistant Principal, Phil Chang, and Community Member: Linda Doll.

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.

CMS - STEAM Elective

Curriculum Supervisor Sergio Anaya collaborated with Mr. Bob Fahler and Neil Engle, Technology Education teacher to redefine the Engineering and Video Production course at CMS. An Issue Brief was written and presented at the Curriculum Council Committee. Dr. Liz McKeaney asked Mr. Robert Fahler to provide a summary of the new proposed Tech Ed elective, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) Connections, which will be replacing the Engineering and Video Production course. The Engineering and Video Production course will be incorporated into the STEAM Connections course for the upcoming school year. This STEAM elective is a course intended to challenge a student's understanding of the world around them while utilizing the content they have learned in all of their other courses. Deeply rooted in the 4 "C's" (Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking, and Creativity and the Technology Student Association Curricula Framework) this course will provide students with leadership opportunities through real-world experiences in which they can apply knowledge they gain through competitive events, engineering design processes and overall educational experiences.

Students who take this course will leave with many skills needed to be competitive in our ever evolving technological world and global economy. This course is for any student who is intrinsically motivated while desiring to "lead in a technical world", apply his or her ~~their~~ knowledge, and make a difference in our local/global communities.

CMS Guidance Counselor Caseload Change Proposed

Mr. Fahler noted that the current counselor caseloads are organized by grade level. He presented a proposal to reorganize counselor caseloads alphabetically for the 2017-18 school year. ~~at~~ The Breakdown will be: A-G, & P-Z. Mr. Fahler shared that counselors will supervise the groups in the order of the alphabetized last names: Carracappa A-G, Doroshow H-O, and Simonetti P-Z. The rationale for the changes is ~~are~~:

- Create more collaboration among counselors;
- Facilitate more meeting flexibility;
- Allow for more specialized, non-rotating program responsibilities (ie: transitions, promotion, awards, career day, etc);
- Increase relationship building with families;
- Increase continuity by only adding 1/3 of a new caseload each year compared to a full caseload every three years;
- Balance the substantially greater work load of the 8th grade counselor in the present system;
- Improve participation at IEP and team meetings.

Master Teacher Genius Hour

Dr. McKeaney provided information to the Board regarding the CSD Master Teacher Cohorts. Dr. McKeaney shared that the Master Teachers participate in a goal setting activity each fall and participate and facilitate professional development sessions throughout the year where they have opportunities to lead, explore, learn, create, discover, research and present topics of interest. Master Teachers also prepare a “Best Practice/Genius Hour” each year. Topics from this year’s Genius Hour included professional learning, differentiating instruction, meaningful integration of technology, responsive classroom, and performance assessments. At the conclusion of the presentations, the audience had comment cards to provide the presenter with feedback. The Ask a Master Teacher resource on CSD’s district website was promoted at the event as well (<https://www.colonialsd.org/rp-staff-portal/ask-a-master-teacher>). All teachers in the district have access to this resource where they submit a question in one of the listed categories and a member of the Master Teacher PLC responds providing support.

STEAM Showcase – PDE Computer Science Video

Sergio Anaya, Instructional Innovation Supervisor, provided an update on the Second Annual STEAM Showcase that was held at CSD. CSD shared the stage with community partners that included Drexel University, LaSalle University and ASTM International, a company headquartered in West Conshohocken. While STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics, the STEAM culture in Colonial touches all subject areas through interdisciplinary lessons, project-based learning and making connections. Mr. Anaya also shared a STEAM Showcase video.

Maria Wileczek, STEAM Supervisor, provided an update on the Girls in Technology Summer Academy that was held at PWHS. The Camp is scheduled to run from June 19th until June 29th with approximately 27 students with both half day and full day options offered. The camp is committed to introducing various science and technology concepts to female

students entering 5th – 8th grade. This year there will be several guest presenters, such as female scientist from DOW Chemical, as well as Field trips to Escape the Room.

Conference Requests

The committee reviewed a conference request for Curriculum Supervisor, Sergio Anaya, to attend the Computer Science Teachers of America 2017 Conference, in Baltimore, MD from July 8-11, 2017. The request was approved.

Discussion Topics

A brief Q&A session was held, and there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy C. Aiken