

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes August 22, 2016

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, August 22, 2016, in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Curriculum Committee Chairman, Leslie Finegold. Present were Board Vice-President, Beth Suchsland; Board Members: Cathy Peduzzi; and Felix Raimondo; Superintendent, Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer; Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Dr. Liz McKeaney; Curriculum Supervisors: Dr. Katy Giovanisci and Sergio Anaya; Plymouth Elementary Principal, Rosemarie Gregitis; Colonial Elementary Teacher, Christian Speranza; and 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. McKeaney introduced Rosemarie Gregitis and Christian Speranza and all were welcomed.

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

Curriculum Updates:

Textbook Approvals

Dr. McKeaney, put forth to the Board a request for textbook approval. The Course: Advanced Placement Latin/Honors Latin 6, Textbook Title: Vergil's Aeneid: Selected Readings from Books 1, 2, 4, and 6 Paperback, Author: Barbara Weiden Boyd. The Textbook will be approved at the Special Meeting of the Board on Monday, August 22, 2016.

Summer Title Programs

2016 Summer School Program at Plymouth Elementary

Mrs. Gregitis shared highlights from the 2016 Title I Summer School at Plymouth Elementary. The 2016 Title I Summer School at Plymouth Elementary was offered to incoming students in grades K-3. Students were invited to the summer school based on Title I requirements and teacher recommendations of students not meeting grade level expectations. Incoming kindergarten students were invited based on results from a spring screening given at Plymouth Elementary with regard to school readiness. With a focus on maintaining and increasing student achievement toward grade level standards, all teachers provided rigorous instruction and interventions to all students based on multiple points of data. Instructors also incorporated STEAM activities connected to curriculum concepts. A total of 51 students participated in the program at Plymouth Elementary which ran July 18-August 11 from 9am-3pm on Monday through Thursday for first through third students, and 9am-12pm for the youngest students.

Teachers and parents believed that the program provided great benefit to the at risk students and kept them on a rigorous learning path throughout the four weeks. Mrs. Gregitis shared that they will be expecting less learning loss from these students when analyzing their universal assessments in the fall.

2016 Conshohocken Summer Camp Overview

Mr. Christian Speranza shared updates on the Conshohocken Summer Camp program that was established to help offset the "summer slide" which is the tendency for students to regress academically during the summer months. All students with different learning needs were given the opportunity to practice and maintain skills that were taught to them throughout the school year. Mr. Speranza reported that Conshohocken Summer Camp had 48 students participating from first grade to students getting ready to enter Colonial Elementary

School. The camp focused on promoting the cognitive, emotional, physical, and social development of each child. This was accomplished by immersing the students in various learning activities that promote and develop 21st century learning skills. The children's schedule consisted of an hour and a half math and reading block. During this time students were taught in small group instruction that was differentiated by student readiness. The reading block consisted of guiding reading groups and centers that help reinforce comprehension, decoding, and writing skills. In math, students worked both independently and in small groups to analyze and solve mathematical problems. With the use of manipulatives and math strategies, students were able to successfully find solutions to problems. The Instructors also incorporated STEAM initiatives throughout the day. Students had an hour block where they worked collaboratively to problems solve and work on experiential learning activities that lead to higher level thinking. As in the past, teambuilding activities were incorporated. Mr. Speranza shared the 2016 Conshohocken Summer Camp was very successful in continuing the goal of teaching the whole child.

Summer Literacy Blast

Dr. Katy Giovanisci shared updates from the 2016 Summer Literacy Blast (SLB) program that was run at Colonial Elementary School this year. The Elementary Literacy Summer Program included students in Kindergarten through sixth grade. The purpose of the program was to assist students to maintain reading levels with a focus on motivation for literacy, building background knowledge and avoiding the summer slide as they maintain access to leveled texts (both physical and digital) throughout the summer. The Summer Literacy Blast was held at CES from June 20th through July 6th from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm Monday through Friday for students recommended by their teachers and reading specialists. There were a total of 41 students who participated. Of the 12 days, 10 different community presentations were organized to help students to make connections to their readings and then to reflect upon experiences through writing.

The data collected at the end of the program shows that the goal was successfully met and all students who participated in the program either maintained or improved their reading level.

Girls in Technology

Sergio Anaya shared highlights from the 2016 Girls In Technology (GIT) Program held at Plymouth Whitmarsh High School. The Program ran from June 13th through June 23rd, 2016, Monday through Friday. Both half day from 9:00 – 12:00 and full day 9:00 – 3:30 were offered to girls entering 5th to 8th grades. This is the first year GIT ran as a full day program.

Mr. Anaya shared the purpose of this program is to expose girls to technological, scientific and computer-based curriculum topics/courses, as early as possible. We anticipate that the earlier the exposure to technology-related fields the more likely our female students are to pursue careers in these fields. Sergio shared there were 43 female students enrolled in the program, and were instructed by 5 teachers in the areas of: Programming, Robotics, Engineering and Art. He also shared Grant money from Quaker Chemical decreased the cost of the program which made the offering of the program more affordable to our students this year. Sergio stated the GIT was very successful this year. Students asked if they could come back next year for more in-depth instruction on specific topics of interest.

PDE Act 1 of 2016 Updates

Education Accountability Updates

Dr. Liz McKeane shared the 2016 PSSA Aggregate Data and Statewide Keystone Results Summary Report that were posted by Pennsylvania Board of Education (PDE) today. She shared that PDE will release school level, and disaggregated data and School Performance Profiles (SPP) in late September or early October.

Discussion Items: There was no discussion items presented.

Public Comment:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

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