

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes November 21, 2016

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 4:32 pm by Curriculum Chairperson, Leslie Finegold. Present were Board President Susan Moore; Board Vice President, Beth Suchsland; Board Members: Felix Raimondo, Mel Brodsky, Cathy Peduzzi; Superintendent, Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Dr. Elizabeth McKeane; Curriculum Supervisors: Dr. Katy Giovanisci, Maria Wileczek; K-12 Mathematics Coordinator, Gina Nelson; Plymouth Whitmarsh High School Principal, Dr. Jason Bacani; 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. McKeane welcomed everyone.

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

Achievement Report

Dr. McKeane provided an overview and highlighted the 2016-2017 Annual Student Achievement Report. She stated that the goal of the Annual Report is to organize district data to show how well students are performing at the national, state, and district level. It remains a goal of CSD to continue to develop and use other benchmarks, beyond test scores and surveys, to measure overall district quality and improvement. These include common, grade/course-level benchmark assessments, diagnostic tests, and other data sources identified annually in each buildings' *Continuous Improvement Plan*.

Student performance results on the following assessments were shared:

- Advanced Placement Exams (AP)
- SAT & ACT
- Keystone Exams
- PSSA (Grades 3, 5, 8, 11 ELA and Math; Grades 4 & 8 Science)
- Longitudinal cohort analysis for graduating class of 2017

Dr. Bacani shared that 322 PWHS students were enrolled in AP classes and that the number of AP exams taken was 539. PWHS students consistently outperform students across the state with scores of 3+ on AP exams. More than one-third of the class of 2016 scored at least 3 or more during their high school years. Questions about changes to AP courses and exams were asked. Dr. McKeane noted that any changes to AP courses are dictated by the College Board. Once College Board makes the announcement, CSD teachers are provided professional development sessions to support them in adapting and delivering the new curriculum.

Dr. McKeane noted that PWHS student scores on the SAT, ACT and Keystone exams continue to trend upward. She also shared that the SAT has undergone its biggest change in 30 years. The new SAT made its debut in March 2016 and impacts students in the class of 2017 or younger. The content on the New SAT is very similar to the ACT. Students now have to reason their way through this exam by tackling problems in a linear and sequential fashion; a student's ability to process information quickly is key.

Dr. McKeaney noted that questions require students to take multiple steps to get an answer. Dr. Giovanisci added that the reading passages include complex structure and vocabulary and reasoning and critical thinking skills are paramount. Evidence-Based Reading and Writing are required while the Essay is not optional and separately scored. Dr. Giovanisci also noted that, although there are fewer sections on the new test, they are longer in time than the old test.

Curriculum Supervisors, Mrs. Wileczek, Mrs. Nelson and Dr. Giovanisci highlighted student performance on Keystone and PSSA assessments in Science/Biology, Mathematics, and English Language Arts. Data indicates that students at CSD continue to perform well. Dr. McKeaney mentioned that Keystone assessments have remained consistent since their implementation; however this was the second year students in K-8 were assessed by PA Core Standards. The newer, more rigorous standards required changes to curriculum, alignment, PD, new resources, time and funding. Dr. McKeaney noted that the longer students are educated using the new standards, the better they will perform on the assessment.

Discussion Items: There were no discussion items presented.

Public Comment: None

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Turner
Administrative Assistant
Office of the Superintendent