

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2016 3:30 pm Supt. Conference Room

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Tuesday, December 13, 2016 in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 4:34 pm by Curriculum Chairperson, Leslie Finegold. Present were Board President, Susan Moore; Board Member Mel Brodsky; Superintendent, Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer; Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Dr. Elizabeth McKeaney; Curriculum Supervisors: Dr. Katy Giovanisci, Sergio Anaya, Maria Wileczek; Plymouth Whitemarsh Principal, Dr. Jason Bacani; Colonial Middle School Principal, Robert Fahler; Director of Human Resources, Dr. Leticia Rodriguez; Community Member, Linda Doll and Linda Turner

Curriculum Committee Chairperson Leslie Finegold opened the meeting for any public comments and there were none. Dr. McKeaney welcomed everyone.

CMS Staffing

CMS Principal Robert Fahler presented a request for an additional (.4) Reading Specialist at CMS. The goal is to implement a research-based reading intervention program for targeted students and expand upon current staff to meet the academic needs of an increased number of students needing reading support without sacrificing program quality, rigor, and achievement gains. Additional in-class supports by highly trained reading personnel will not only help to maximize literacy development of students at the elementary level, but also make possible improved implementation of exemplary literacy practices aligned with CSD professional development priorities. Dr. Gorodetzer noted that the CMS Administration had explored other options to address this need and it was agreed that the (.4) teacher would best support our students. After a brief discussion, the board members present supported this request.

High School Course Proposals for Upcoming School Year

PWHS Principal Dr. Jason Bacani shared the process for new elective courses being proposed. The process includes a thorough review by Curriculum Supervisors, Department Heads, Academic Council and Curriculum Council members. He noted that the new 5x5 scheduling provided flexibility and provided the opportunity for more choices for students. Dr. Bacani stated that the new proposed courses covered a variety of subjects, included both Honors and AP courses and were of high interest to students. There were (5) English, (3) Science, (1) World Languages, (4) EDI, and (1) AVID course being proposed. A brief synopsis of each course was provided for review and Curriculum Supervisors Dr. Katy Giovanisci, Maria Wileczek, and Sergio Anaya offered further details, rationale, etc. and responded to questions from the committee members.

PDE STEM Advisory

Curriculum Supervisor and PA STEM Advisory Committee Member Sergio Anaya provided an update for House Bill 833 which allows a student who completes a course in computer science or information technology, during grades 9-12, to apply up to one credit earned for completion of such course to satisfy the student's mathematics or science credit requirement for graduation. Mr. Anaya outlined the next steps to be taken to address this Bill. These include the review of courses for Computer Science alignment: Electronics, Robotics, GameMaker Programming to support our CS1, CS2, and AP Computer Science courses and to fulfill H.B. 833 which will take place in January 2017. It was noted that a recent audit by CSTA found that our curriculum fully aligned with their standards. Mr. Anaya also shared that PBS would be producing a video highlighting our K-6 Computer Science Curriculum.

Conference Requests

In an effort to continue the momentum of the growth and development of a K-12 STEAM framework, Dr. McKeaney presented a request to coordinate site visits of recognized schools with an established STEAM framework and innovative approaches to arranging internships/externships in Fairfax County, VA and NAF Academies in Washington DC. Those attending will be Dr. McKeaney, Curriculum Supervisors Maria Wilczek and Sergio Anaya; Director of Development & Curriculum Supervisor of Career Readiness Denise Marks; PWHS Principal Dr. Jason Bacani; and PWHS Assistant Principal Maico Azcona.

Dr. Gorodetzer stated that the details of the conference requests would be included in Board Notes for board members to review.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 pm.