

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes
April 9, 2018

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The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, April 9, 2018 at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School Library. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Curriculum Committee Chairperson and Board Vice President, Leslie Finegold.

Present were Board President, Felix Raimondo; Board Members: Susan Moore, Mel Brodsky, Eunice Franklin-Becker, Jennifer Dow, Cathy Peduzzi, Rosemary Northcutt, and Adam Schupack;

Superintendent, Dr. Michael Christian; Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Dr. Liz McKeaney; Curriculum Supervisor, Maria Wileczek and Director of Development and Curriculum Supervisor of Career Development, Denise Marks; Plymouth Whitemarsh High School Principal, Dr. Jason Bacani; Plymouth Whitemarsh Assistant Principals, Steven Price and Heather King; School Counselors, Jennifer Hannold and Lisa Genovese, PWHS Students, Danielle Garrity and Jenna Smith, Community Members, Linda Doll, Chris Epstein, Mark Crayden, Jen Diletto, Lisa Snyder, Ray Willey and Administrative Assistant, Nancy Aiken.

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

Curriculum Committee Chairperson Mrs. Leslie Finegold opened the meeting asking for any public comments and there were none. Mrs. Finegold then announced that the meeting is being audio recorded and the recording will be put on the website. Dr. Liz McKeaney welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Dr. McKeaney reviewed the agenda items and began by explaining that Pennsylvania requires all school districts to develop a comprehensive K-12 School Counseling or 339 Plan. This plan is being updated to align and comply with PA's Career Readiness Indicator for the Future Ready Index and ESSA accountability. The plan outlines the importance of career planning and future readiness for all students starting in the elementary grades, and focusing on: Career Awareness and Preparation, Career Acquisition "Getting a Job," Career Retention and Advancement "Keeping a job," and Entrepreneurship "Creating a job". Dr. McKeaney stated the program goals for the 339 Plan are clearly measurable and directly tied to schools. They are categorized as academic, career and personal/social.

Dr. McKeaney asked Mrs. Denise Marks, Director of Development and Curriculum Supervisor of Career Development, and Mr. Steve Price, Assistant Principal at Plymouth Whitemarsh High School to provide highlights pertaining to the 339 Plan, College and Career Readiness and the PA Future Ready Index guidelines. Mr. Price provided an update on the PA Future Ready Index and outlined the 3 components: State Assessment Measures; On-Track Measures and; College and Career Readiness Measures. He focused on the College and Career Readiness Measures for this evening. Mrs. Marks explained that CSD goals are a blending of the K-12 Guidance Plan and Career Education Work Standards. To help accomplish this task, Mrs. Marks noted that she, Mr. Price and counselors are participating in professional development at the MCIU with other counties. Together, the team is working on the required 13 sections to develop the action plan which entails integrating these standards into the K-12 academic content standards and updating the counselor's curriculum to also incorporate the Career Education Work Standards. Mrs. Marks also established an advisory council to review and refine "the what" and "the how" of current practices and update the career resources and activities that students will be participating in K-12.

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The goal is to begin the process of career exploration at the elementary level by providing opportunities for students to examine areas of their interest and learn about how various careers align. Additional opportunities for career exploration will occur at the middle school level and career planning will begin at the high school level. Mrs. Marks noted that “we have already started at the middle school and high school level to take a look at what we are doing to expose students to exploring careers and identifying their interests.” She anticipates that, by the end of the summer, “everything will be locked down and into place and we will be launching our first advisory council committee to review plan.” The advisory committee will give recommendations for how to move forward at the elementary level.

Mrs. Marks shared that CSD is going to be partnering with Dell Boomi, the I-Cloud portion of Dell located in Chesterbrook, PA. On June 15, CES will host a STEM Career Expo day where all grade 5 students will engage in STEM activities. At the middle school, a career day will take place.

Another goal of the plan is to revisit our relationship with the tech school and expose students to the opportunities that exist as part of their program of study. Mrs. Marks has reached out to Central Monco Technical High school who is going to collaborate with CSD on the 339 Plan.

At the high school level, the internship experience is part of the current curriculum and will be revisited to align with updates to CSD’s Career and College readiness goals. Mrs. Marks is using the Career Grant money awarded to CSD to help fund the development of a Career Center in the Guidance Office at PWHS. She also noted that the Montgomery County Workforce Development Board has been a “great resource in identifying internships in forensic science that are difficult to find.” Toward that goal, Mrs. Marks also coordinated professional development in high priority occupations specific to healthcare and biotechnology for middle school and high school teachers.

Teachers from CMS attended the countywide Manifest day in Montgomery County. This year the event was hosted by Souderton and Centennial School Districts who highlighted manufacturing in our region. By 2025, statistics reveal that most jobs in our region will be in manufacturing which requires highly skilled degrees and certifications, both 2 and 4 year degrees, as well as technical school attendance. This is a day where parents and students come together to view some of the manufacturing employers in our region and to appreciate the entire landscape of what employment opportunities exist.

Mr. Price introduced Lisa Genovese, School Counselor, who highlighted Naviance, a comprehensive college and career readiness solution used by CSD to assist in aligning student strengths and interests to postsecondary goals. Naviance houses local and national scholarship information. Students can compare various colleges and universities and get an idea of what schools they are eligible to attend and gain acceptance. A Learning Style Inventory and Career Search – Related Occupations, Wages, Relevancy are other search options available on Naviance.

Mrs. Genovese noted that PWHS is very excited about the “Sophomore Spotlight” initiative, which focuses on the midpoint of a student’s high school career, and provides opportunities for families to meet with counselors collaboratively look at their child’s progress and explore

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opportunities for the next two critical years in preparation for high school graduation and beyond. The PWHS counselors are going to meet with every sophomore parent/family during and after school hours so parents can learn how to use Naviance and “get a sense of what the student’s goals and interests are”. The primary focus of these sessions will be to review Naviance, the student’s academic transcript, his/her post-secondary plans and potential next steps.

Mrs. Finegold asked a question about the number of occupations stored in the database of Naviance. Mrs. Genovese responded that there is an extensive list that is updated every year. Mrs. Kathy Peduzzi asked if colleges and universities have to opt into Naviance. Mrs. Genovese responded that they do have to “buy into Naviance,” and that “every college across the country is in Naviance because that is how the guidance counselors transfer all students transcripts, etc. to the colleges.”

Mrs. Peduzzi asked about the usage of Naviance at the middle school level. Mrs. Marks shared that all 6th graders will receive a lesson on how to use Naviance and will be taught how to set up their accounts.

Mr. Price introduced Heather King, the district’s Director of AVID Program. AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination which is a college readiness program, currently in its 11th year at PWHS. AVID is designed to help students develop the skills they need to be successful in college and emphasizes writing, critical thinking, teamwork, organization and reading skills. Mrs. King gave handouts which explained the AVID Curricular Breakdown at PWHS and the AVID statistical numbers at PWHS.

Mrs. King then introduced two 11th grade AVID students to the Board, Danielle Garrity and Jenna Smith and their 11th grade AVID teacher, Mrs. Jennifer Hannold. Jenna and Danielle shared their AVID experiences with the Board and ways the program has improved their educational experiences and helped with their college search. Mrs. Hannold also provided information regarding the PWHS AVID curriculum 9th through 12th grades.

Additional questions about how the Counseling Department works with students at PWHS were raised. Mrs. Finegold suggested there be a meeting held to specifically address the Counseling Department and College Counseling procedures at the PWHS. Dr. McKeaney said she will add as an item for a future meeting. Mrs. Marks added that examining the Counseling Department is part of the 339 Plan.

Dr. McKeaney provided a few updates on the CSD Comprehensive Planning Committee progress. She shared that 30 members attended and on February 22, 2018. During this time they looked at each of the components of the Professional Education Plan, reviewed and provided feedback on goals, strategies, and indicators of effectiveness. They will meet again on May 22nd to establish goals and strategies for the next three years. Dr. McKeaney noted that part of the Comprehensive Plan includes a Special Education component. She introduced Karen Berk, Director of Pupil Services, to highlight aspects of this part of the plan.

Mrs. Berk mentioned that a draft of the Comprehensive Plan, Special Education Component is up on the CSD website. She explained that updating the plan is part of a three year cycle which

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includes reviewing the programs and services the school district offers and helps guarantee assurances that the district provides programming to meet the unique needs of students who have disabilities.

Discussion Topics

A brief Q&A session was held.

Mrs. Finegold stated that topics previously suggested for the CCOB meeting will be addressed at the May meeting which will be held at Whitemarsh Elementary. Mrs. Drizin will highlight the “Therapy/Sensory Room” in her building. Dr. McKeaney asked Dr. Bacani and Mr. Fahler to share CSD’s “Grading for Learning guidelines” and Mrs. Rock to provide an update on the grade 4 “Teaming Teaching” initiative.

Dr. McKeaney noted that there are no CCOB meetings typically held during the months of June and July. If there is a topic of importance that the Board would like to discuss, please let Mrs. Feingold know who will contact Dr. McKeaney to set up a time for the committee to convene. If not, the CCOB will convene in August.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Mrs. Maria Wileczek suggested the Board stop by to see the Art Show in the LGI.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy C. Aiken
Administrative Assistant
Office of Curriculum,
Instruction and Assessment