

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes September 18, 2017

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, September 18, 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 Vice President, Beth Suchsland; Board Members: Mel Brodsky, Felix Raimondo, Cathy Peduzzi; Superintendent, Dr. Michael Christian; Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Dr. Liz McKeane; Curriculum Supervisors: Maria Wileczek, Dr. Katy Giovanisci and Denise Marks; and Community Member: Linda Doll.

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

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

Curriculum and Programmatic Initiatives: Year at a Glance

Dr. Liz McKeane provided a handout highlighting CSD's District-wide curricular and instructional programs and initiatives. A description and timeline for implementation of each area was presented. Mrs. Maria Wileczek, Curriculum Supervisor, summarized CSD's "Inspire STEAM" initiative. She showed a video of CSD Elementary students working on an authentic, real-world project that included innovation and collaboration where CMS students completed a "top down" modeling activity within a three dimensional design software. Students created "adaptive parts" within the 3d modeling space by designing around an existing object. They assumed the role of designer, engineer and programmer. Maria also shared plans to increase professional development in the area of 3D Science Learning which is a vision and plan for Science Teaching and Learning being offered to 4th and 5th grade teachers this year.

Information on Aquaponics (Riverbend) initiative being offered at CMS and PWHS was also presented by Ms. Wileczek. Aquaponics was described as a combination of aquaculture and hydroponics, the science of growing fish and plants together in one integrated, and soilless system. It has been widely determined to be the most sustainable, naturally grown agriculture for the future. Currently, 7th grade middle school teachers and high school environmental Science teachers will be participating in professional development as well as designing and maintaining Aquaponics systems in their buildings. These systems will support labs and generate data. In time, Aquaponics will be integrated into multiple content areas making it a true STEAM experience.

Ms. Wileczek concluded that a culture of STEAM will help ensure that CSD graduates possess creative, collaborative, interpersonal and entrepreneurial skills, as well as develop confidence so students are prepared for the evolution of tomorrow's workforce.

Dr. Giovanisci provided an overview on the Growth And Intervention Network (GAIN) Initiative being implemented this year. GAIN was defined as a prevention-based framework of team-driven, data-based problem solving for improving the outcomes of every student through a layered continuum of evidence-based practices and support. GAIN is modeled after MTSS which is defined as:

- A data-driven model to enable early identification and strategic interventions for students at academic or behavioral risk;
- A multi-level instructional framework aimed at improving instruction for ALL students; and,
- A shared and collaborative decision-making process among professional educators.

This systematic approach will help teachers provide focused, prescriptive instruction based on data that will grow the academic achievement of all students.

Dr. Katy Giovanisci also provided an overview of the Differentiated Instruction Professional Development being offered to teaching and administrative staff. Although not a new initiative, the goal is to continue to purposefully integrate DI principles into teaching and learning to best support the individual needs of our students.

Updates on the “Being a Writer” (BAW) K-3 pilot were presented. Dr. Giovanisci shared two K-3 teachers per building, per grade-level volunteered to pilot BAW for the 2017-2018 school year. The emphasis of BAW is based upon the writing process, yet it interweaves academic and social emotional learning. The pilot team will receive job-embedded professional development throughout this year and a recommendation for full implementation will be given in the spring.

Updates on CSD’s approach to data-driven decision making using the new data management tool LinkIt! was presented by Dr. McKeaney. She noted that on-site professional development to CSD administrative and teaching staff will occur throughout the year. The goal is to build staff capacity and comfort level in assessment development, delivery and data analysis to address student academic needs.

Denise Marks, Director of Development & Curriculum Supervisor for Career Readiness, reported on the Career Readiness Mini-Grant Application. CSD has been collaborating with Jennifer Butler, Executive Director of Montgomery County Local Workforce Development Board, to assist with the development of an action plan for connecting with employers, post-secondary entities, certification programs for professional development and work-based learning opportunities within our community. This mini grant will focus on the Integration of Career & Education Work Standards at PWHS. This will connect the CSD 339 Plan, a Pennsylvania requirement that all school districts to have a K-12 School Counseling Plan as part of Chapter 339. Funding from the grant will help CSD build their plan by supporting the school counselors, and organizing and facilitating college planning for students in HPO fields, especially those connected to healthcare biotechnology.

Conference Requests

The committee reviewed six conference requests at the meeting. The first one is for PWHS World Language Teacher, Rich Madel to attend two conferences: the Pennsylvania State Modern Language Association (PSMLA) 2017 Conference, in Harrisburg, PA from October 5 - 7, 2017. He will be presenting to an audience of state- wide leaders and presenting CSD as a leader among the State. His second request is the American Council of Teaching of Foreign Languages, in Nashville, TN from November 17 – 19, 2017. Mr. Madel will be presenting to an audience of leaders from around the country and presenting CSD as a national leader in World Languages. The third request is for Candy Maggioncalda, PA Art Education Association (PAEA) Conference, in Pittsburgh, PA from October 19 – 20, 2017. Mrs. Maggioncalda is receiving the Outstanding Secondary Art Educator Award at the conference. The fourth conference request reviewed is for Nancy Labricciosa, Jumpstart National Educator Conference on Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, in Washington, DC, from November 3, 2017. The fifth conference request is for Sara Frey, to Pennsylvania Library Association Annual Conference, in Pittsburgh, PA on October 15- 18, 2017. Sara will be accepting the 2017 PALA Best practices Award for STEM programming for the PW Open Minds program. Sara will also be attending the American Libraries Association Conference, in Louisville, KY on November 3, 2017. Sara will be co-presenting a 3-hour session regarding the technique and programming to expand teens’ experiences with reading and will speak about the next PWHS Next Chapter Book Club. All requests were approved by the committee.

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,

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