

## **Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes November 13, 2017**

*The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, November 13, 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 President Susan Moore; Vice President, Beth Suchsland; Board Members: Felix Raimondo, Cathy Peduzzi; Superintendent, Dr. Michael Christian; Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Dr. Liz McKeaney; Curriculum Supervisor, Maria Wileczek; Plymouth Whitemarsh High School Principal, Dr. Jason Bacani; Plymouth Whitemarsh High School Assistant Principals, Steven Price; and Community Members, Linda Doll, Eunice Franklin-Becker and Rosemary Northcutt; and Nancy Aiken.*

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

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

### **Meeting Summary**

Dr. Liz McKeaney presented information regarding the PA School Performance Profile (SPP) which measures performance in schools and is used as part of teacher evaluation based on the Educator Effectiveness System as required by 24 P.S. § 11-1123 – Act 82 – 2012. Information regarding the PA Future Ready Index, a new measurement tool being proposed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) to evaluate school performance, was also shared. CSD's efforts to expand partnerships between the District and Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) using Career Readiness grant funds awarded by Team PA foundation were discussed.

### **School Performance Profile**

Dr. McKeaney explained that the SPP score provides a building level academic score meant to inform the public of how well schools are performing academically and serves as part of a teacher's evaluation as mandated in the Educator Effectiveness System. She added that the SPP does not provide a clear picture of how well schools are performing because the method aggregates various measures into a single score by combining dissimilar measures such as PSSA/Keystone assessment scores, PA value-added growth measures, English Language Proficiency on the WIDA exam, absenteeism percentages, industry credentials, graduation, and student participation in various tests and courses (i.e. SAT, AP, etc.). Dr. McKeaney noted that school configuration is another example of SPP limitations because fewer indicators are used to calculate a SPP score for a school with a grade 4-5 span compared to a grade K-5. An example of limitations with the SPP single rating was illustrated. While the revisions to the SPP are still being discussed, Dr. McKeaney noted that the proposed methodology is expected to address the issue of unequal weighting, as well as, incentivize career awareness.

Dr. Christian informed the committee that representatives from PDE conducted stakeholder feedback sessions with Superintendents, principals and curriculum leaders to gather information about the PA SPP and current testing practices used by the state. He noted that one of the concerns raised was the amount of state mandated testing required by students in grades 3 through 11. Other areas of concern included the impact of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and recent legislation related to students in career and technical education (CTE) programs. These sessions resulted in PDE recommending changes to some of the current SPP indicators, a reduction of testing time on the PSSAs in English language arts and mathematics by 20 percent beginning this spring, and a new school report card that expands the indicators used to measure school performance. Metrics identified through stakeholder engagement include participation in advanced coursework (Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and dual enrollment), and the number of students earning industry-recognized credentials.

### **Future Ready PA Index**

Dr. McKeane reported that to revise the SPP requires state law and regulation, most significantly in Act 82 of 2012 (Educator Effectiveness). The state proposes a new public report card called the Future Ready PA Index. This Index addresses the issue of unequal weighting of content areas used in the current SPP and incentivizes career awareness, beginning at the elementary level. More specifically, the Future Ready PA Index incorporates a wider range of criteria to measure school performance such as career awareness activities, advanced placement course offerings and dual enrollment opportunities with higher education institutions.

### **College and Career Readiness**

Dr. Bacani shared the three components of the Future Ready PA Index: 1. State Assessment Measures; 2. On-track Measures; and 3. College and Career Readiness Measures. Secondary impact and connections with the components were addressed. According to PDE career readiness means that, *Pennsylvania learners will be prepared for meaningful engagement in postsecondary education, in workforce training, in career pathways, and as responsible, involved citizens.*

Mrs. Maria Wileczek discussed CSDs initiatives and goals surrounding career readiness and the connection with PA goals. She noted that CSD goals include: establishing career pathways for skill, credential, and degree attainment; increasing student opportunities for work-based learning through pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, and other similar experiences; improving alignment between K-12 and workforce development systems; expanding partnerships between CSD and Montgomery County Workforce Development Board (LWDBs); and increasing the labor market information in career readiness activities at the district level.

Dr. McKeane added that CSD was awarded a mini-grant in the amount of \$5,000 from Team PA foundation. She said the award is being used to enhance and expand Plymouth Whitmarsh High School's Career Readiness program, specifically in the High Priority Occupations (HPO) of health care and biotechnology careers. Part of this grant will be used to update curriculum to better align to the PA Career Readiness Standards. Other work includes revisiting CSDs career pathways plan and revising our K-12 School Guidance Plan as part of 22 Pa. Code § 339.31.

As part of the grant, an industry forum was held at PWHS during the November professional development session. Staff from the Curriculum Office, CMS and PWHS Administrative Team,

Guidance Counselors, Special Education, Science, Family Consumer Science, Entrepreneur-Design-Innovation, Health and Physical Education, Information Media attended. Mr. Steve Price, Assistant Principal of PWHS, shared highlights of this session and the work currently being done at the building level to increase awareness around HPOs in biotechnology and healthcare. Industry representatives from Rockland Immunochemical, Bayada Nursing and a MCC Professor of Biotechnology presented information regarding student placements in meaningful exploration and held a question and answer session addressing HPOs.

### **Conference Requests**

The committee reviewed a conference request for PWHS Guidance Counselor, Patricia Tamborello to attend a conference at the University of Vermont, St. Michael's and Champlain, in Vermont on January 16, 2018. The request was approved.

### **Discussion Topics**

A brief Q&A session was held, and there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Instruction and Assessment