

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes August 17, 2009, 5:30 P.M.

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, August 17, 2009, in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Committee Chairman, Tom Davis. Present were Superintendent, Dr. Vincent Cotter; Assistant Superintendent, Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer; Director of Pupil Services and Special Education, Karen Berk; Dr. Liz McKeaney, Donna Gaffney, Sergio Anaya, Kathleen Hamill, Maria Bellino, Dave Sherman and Marge Gramlich.

PSSA/AYP Data: AYP information was distributed by Dr. Liz McKeaney who shared that all schools achieved AYP in reading, math, attendance and participation.

Dr. McKeaney also distributed PSSA information comparing student achievement in 2004 to 2009.

Summer Programs: Kathleen Hamill presented a summary of Elementary Summer Reading Programs. 121 students were enrolled in the program. Attendance was very good and almost all students maintained or increased their literacy proficiency levels.

Dr. McKeaney reported on the High School Summer School Program. 45 students were enrolled and 42 students successfully met the established standards.

Dr. McKeaney shared that in the Middle School the summer program focused on an interdisciplinary teaching and learning model. Data indicated that all students improved their proficiency levels.

Dr. Gorodetzer spoke about the success of the Bridge Program, which provides orientation and organizational skills to targeted incoming 9th grade students.

School Improvement Awards: Dr. Gorodetzer presented a draft of the proposed School Improvement Awards for 2009-10 school year and noted that both the middle and high schools achieved their reading goals last year. Elementary schools achieved both reading and math goals. The District Improvement Team will review the proposed School Improvement Awards.

Pupil Services Review Committee: Karen Berk, Director of Pupil Services and Special Education, presented a proposal for the design of a Pupil Services Review Committee. The goals of the Committee are to expand upon the previous committee that was formed to address those issues pertaining to autism and the district Autistic Support program; and to address district issues and concerns pertaining to Special Education, Guidance, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Gifted Education.

Induction: Dr. McKeaney reported that the Induction Program for new CSD teachers is scheduled for August 18th, 19th and 20th.

Donna Gaffney spoke about the purpose and goals of the induction booklet and reported that we will have 15 new teachers involved in the Induction Program this year. This year's induction booklet is reflective of feedback from prior years and indicates to teachers where supports are available.

A meet and greet reception for new teachers and Board members will be held on September 17th in the PWHS library prior to the Board meeting.

Conference Reimbursement: The 2009-10 budget for conference reimbursement for administrators was cut by 50% but some minor adjustments were recommended to insure that building administrators have opportunities to attend pertinent state and/or national workshops and conferences.

Conference Requests: A conference request was reviewed for Pat Tamborello to attend the National Association for College Admission Counseling National Conference in Baltimore, Maryland from September 24th through September 26th. Funding for costs associated with this conference will be provided by the PWHS Building Budget.

A conference request was reviewed for Erika Miller to attend the American Association of School Librarians National Conference from November 4th through 8th in Charlotte, North Carolina. Costs associated with this conference will be provided by the PWHS Building Budget.

Conference requests will be presented for approval at the Board Meeting on August 20, 2009.

Tom Davis adjourned the meeting at 6:29 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Marge Gramlich
Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Superintendent*