

## **Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes January 19, 2010, 5:30 P.M.**

*The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Tuesday, January 19, 2010, in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Committee Chairman Alan Tabachnick. Present were Board President, Gary Johnson; Board Vice-President, Sue Moore; Board members Tom Sigafos, Beth Suchsland, Kathleen Oxberry, and Bernie Brady; Superintendent, Dr. Vincent Cotter and Assistant Superintendent, Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer. Also in attendance were administrators Karen Berk, Dr. Liz McKeaney, Sergio Anaya, Maria Bellino, Donna Gaffney, Kathleen Hamill, and Dr. Monica Sullivan; community members Mrs. Linda Doll, and Mr. Tom Davis; and Administrative Assistant Marge Gramlich.*

**Public Comments:** There were no public comments.

**Textbook Review/Approval:** Sergio Anaya, Social Studies and Business Education Curriculum Supervisor, presented requests for textbook approval for two new Business Ed. Department elective courses, in Accounting 2 and Internship-Education. Both courses are dual enrollment courses, developed in conjunction with Montgomery County Community College. Two PWHS teachers have been certified by MCCC to teach these classes. Upon successful completion of either course, students may receive three college credits. Consensus was given to present these textbooks for approval at the Board Meeting on Thursday, Jan 21, 2010.

**Update – Science and Social Studies Review:** Maria Bellino and Sergio Anaya, Curriculum Supervisors, reported that a Science and Social Studies Curriculum Review is currently being conducted and will continue through the summer of 2010. These comprehensive reviews will follow the format of last year's Language Arts and Math Curriculum review. A comprehensive report regarding the outcomes of the reviews will be presented to the Curriculum Committee by September 2010.

**PVAAS Report:** Dr. Elizabeth McKeaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, provided a brief overview of the Pennsylvania Value Added Assessment System (PVAAS) which predicts growth in student achievement levels in the PSSA using a statistical model. The Colonial School District performed at or near the top 20% of the State for reading, math, science and writing, across grade levels.

**Half-Day Professional Development Schedule:** October 8<sup>th</sup>, January 14<sup>th</sup>, March 11<sup>th</sup> and April 15<sup>th</sup> were proposed as scheduled half-day professional development for CSD teachers during the 2010-11 school year.

**ArcelorMittal Grant:** Maria Bellino reported that the Colonial School District has received a \$1,600 Grant from the ArcelorMittal Corporation to develop STEM initiatives in the 2010-11 school year. We will most likely purchase 3 Vex kits for the technology/robotics programs at Colonial Middle School.

**RTTT Grant:** Dr. Gorodetzer discussed the pros and cons of participating in Pennsylvania's *Race to the Top* Grant process. It was determined that Colonial School District will not participate in the RTTT Grant process at this time.

**PWHS Progress Reporting:** Dr. Monica Sullivan, Plymouth Whitemarsh High School Principal, proposed changes to the progress reporting system for students. Progress reports are currently available to parents on-line approximately every 4 ½ weeks. Parents surveyed at the PTSO meeting preferred that the reports continue to be mailed. However, Dr. Sullivan suggested the number of reports be decreased to three per semester. The need for ongoing communication regarding student progress via Power School was noted. This topic will be revisited in the future.

**Counseling Services Program Action Plan:** Karen Berk reported on the May 2009 Counseling Services Program Review conducted by the Pennsylvania Association of Pupil Services Administrators. Commendations and recommendations were given for grades K-3, 4-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Two of the six committee recommendations have been implemented. A timeline has been established for implementing those remaining.

**Conference Requests:** Two conference requests were presented for Tonia Kaufman and Irene Guerriero to attend the PA Music Educators Association State Conference & Festival from April 24-28, 2010 in Pittsburgh, PA. Associated expenses will be covered by building funds. Consensus was given to present these conference requests at the Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Tabachnick adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

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