

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes November 16, 2009, 5:30 P.M.

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, November 16, 2009, in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Committee Chairman Tom Davis. Present were Superintendent, Dr. Vincent Cotter and Assistant Superintendent, Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer, CIO Drew Boegly; Board President, Gary Johnson, Board Vice-President Sue Moore and Board Members Hope Luken, Mitch Zimmer and Dr. Bill Ryan. Also in attendance were Dr. Monica Sullivan, Dr. Liz McKeaney, Sergio Anaya, Maria Bellino, and Marge Gramlich.

PA Standards Aligned Systems (SAS): Social Studies Curriculum Supervisor Sergio Anaya gave a brief overview of the Standards Aligned System designed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education to provide support to districts' curricular needs; however, it has apparently not been utilized extensively across the State. Since CSD has been involved in the development and enhancement of standards-based curriculum, SAS is actually more limited than what we currently have in place. A comparison of SAS to the Colonial model was provided and reviewed.

AP Scores: Dr. Monica Sullivan presented a summary of May 2009 AP scores at PWHS. Numbers of students taking the test and scoring a 3, 4 or 5 has increased by almost 10% since 2002. PWHS administered 106 more tests in 2009 than in 2004. Presently, almost 1 in 3 students are taking AP courses, including a greater number of students who have elected to take the more rigorous, Calculus BC course. It was suggested that the AP teachers review the correlation between these test scores and student grades with department heads during upcoming PLT time.

Carnegie Learning Cognitive Tutor Renewal: Dr. Sullivan discussed the success of the Carnegie Math Program that PWHS introduced in the modified math courses 6 ½ years ago. This program is a technology enhanced course representing two semesters of Algebra and Geometry and one semester of Algebra II. The Carnegie program has provided successful learning experiences for many Special Ed. students, and is believed to have assisted in CSD's attainment of AYP for 2009. The seven year site license we purchased is about to expire. The Math Department has recommended renewal of this license for 5 years at a cost of \$33,215. The Committee expressed its support for the renewal.

Technology Website Access for Faculty: Dr. Sullivan reported to the Technology Department that teachers were having difficulty accessing certain websites due to filters which block some necessary sites. A plan to eliminate the filter for faculty members was discussed at the Technology Review Committee. Mr. Boegly shared that access to most category areas will be available to teachers in the future. The Technology Department will monitor the sites daily.

Keystone Exam Update: Dr. McKeaney reported that the Independent Regulatory Review Commission has recently approved the development of ten Keystone (end of course) Exams. Three of these exams (English Literature, Algebra I and Biology) may be used to satisfy the *No Child Left Behind Act* beginning in 2012-13, thus enabling the state to discontinue the PSSA

exams in 12th grade. School districts could be required to count these exams for at least 1/3 of a student's final grade or use other options, including validated local assessments or AP exams to assure that students have mastered the content.

Foreign Exchange Field Trip: Dr. Gorodetzer presented a request for Board approval by Adam Bailey, Department Head of the World Language Department, to escort a group of 14 high school exchange program students to Madrid, Spain for a 19 day Spanish language and culture immersion experience.

Laure Kuszyk, French teacher, is requesting Board approval to escort a group of 20 French language students to Montpellier, France for a 19 day language and culture immersion experience. Parents will be responsible for the costs of both these trips.

Consensus was given for these requests to be presented at the Board Meeting on November 19, 2009.

Mr. Davis adjourned the meeting at 6:21 p.m.

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