

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes February 16, 2010, 5:00 P.M.

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Tuesday, February 16, 2010, in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Board Vice-President, Sue Moore. Present were Board President, Gary Johnson; Board members, Beth Suchsland, Kathleen Oxberry, and Bernie Brady; Superintendent, Dr. Vincent Cotter and Assistant Superintendent, Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer. Also in attendance were administrators Dr. Liz McKeaney, Sergio Anaya, Maria Bellino, Donna Gaffney, Kathleen Hamill, Dr. Monica Sullivan, Dan Balek, Bob Fahler and Katy Swetkowski; community member Mrs. Linda Doll; and Administrative Assistant Marge Gramlich.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Secondary Summer School Programs: Proposals for the following programs were presented:

- **Educere – Credit Retrieval:** Dan Balek, Assistant Principal at PW High School, proposed partnering with Educere to create an on-line summer credit retrieval program that would provide students with Curricula specific to their individual needs. CSD would provide an on-site instructor to support the students learning and insure that technology supports are available. Participating students would be required to attend an on-site orientation session and it was recommended that course assessments also be taken at the school site. Consensus was given to move forward with this proposal, including modifications and built in supports.
- **CMS Summer School Program:** Katy Swetkowski, Assistant Principal at Colonial Middle School, spoke about a program to meet the needs of more students for extended learning opportunities during the summer. The focus of this summer program would be on helping students maintain and/or improve their skills based on their needs. Two daily sessions were proposed: the first session would integrate Language Arts, Science and History using formative assessment and differentiated instruction. The second session would focus on math utilizing technology skills and opportunities for project based learning. AVID strategies, such as time management and goal setting, would also be included in the curriculum. A maximum of 25 students could enroll in the first session, and 15 students in the second, math session. Costs for staffing would be reduced as fewer staff would be required. The program would run from June 21 through July 16, 2010.

K-5 Summer Literacy Programs: Kathleen Hamill discussed the three programs which would run simultaneously from June 21st through July 15th in the Colonial School District.

- The CSD Primary Grades Summer Literacy Program is for students entering grades first through third. Students must be recommended by the reading specialists and classroom teachers in order to attend this program. The goal is to help students maintain or improve their reading and writing skills throughout the summer months. If possible, class size will be limited to ten students.

- The CSD Intermediate Grades Summer Literacy Program is for students entering grades fourth through sixth. Student registration in the program is based upon recommendation of the reading specialists and classroom teacher.

Both the above programs are held at Conshohocken Elementary School and are specifically for CSD students in need of additional reading and writing instructional support.

- CSD will also conduct a Primary Grades Community Summer Reading Program at Ridge Park Elementary School focused on reading and writing for students entering grades first through third. The goal of this program is to enhance students' reading skills. Enrollment would be limited to 10 students in each of three daily classroom sessions.

Notable savings would be realized due to reduction in staff from the previous year, and the use of a book study instead of a consultant. Consensus was given to move forward with plans for these programs.

Curriculum Updates:

- Progress Reporting - PWHS: Dr. Monica Sullivan, Plymouth Whitmarsh High School Principal, discussed proposed changes to the progress reporting system for students. Progress reports are currently mailed home three times in the semester at 4.5 week intervals. Because parents now have grading information available online, Dr. Sullivan proposed a slight reduction in the mailed reports. Two progress reports will be mailed at 6 week intervals. To ensure that parents have current information available online at the first 4.5 week interval, teachers will be expected to have their online grade book current at the 4.5 week point. Consensus was given to move forward with changes to the progress reporting schedule.
- Girls in Technology: Maria Bellino, Science Curriculum Supervisor, and Sergio Anaya, Business & Information Technology Curriculum Supervisor, reported that they are researching potential programs designed to increase female interest in science and technology. They are working towards the development of a summer technology academy for interested girls in grades 4 through 8. It is anticipated the early exposure to these concepts and fields will increase female student comfort level and in turn encourage the enrollment of female students in later technology related courses.
- Mathematics Curriculum: Donna Gaffney, Math Supervisor addressed concerns related to Integrated Math that were recently discussed at the PWHS Student/Board Town Hall Meeting. She described on-going, annual improvements to the curriculum that reflect an appropriate balance of core concepts, skills and problem solving, accompanied by an emphasis on the depth of understanding necessary for post-secondary success. These changes, combined with the findings of last year's Math Curriculum Review, have focused on curricular coherence, rigor, and the strengthening of algebraic skills.

It was noted that PWHHS Math scores on the PSSA, SAT and ACT have risen over the course of the last several years- currently exceeding state and national means on each assessment.

- Keystone Exams: Dr. Liz McKeane, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, briefly summarized the latest changes/updates to the graduation requirements for the class of 2015 as provided by the PDE. This topic will be revisited as new information becomes available.

Conference Requests: A conference request was presented for Amanda Edwards to attend the AVID Center, Eastern Division on March 4, 2010 in Brooklyn NY. Associated expenses will be funded by the AVID Path Training budget. Consensus was given to present this conference request at the Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting on February 18th.

Mrs. Moore adjourned the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

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