

## **Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes March 15, 2010, 5:00 P.M.**

*The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, March 15, 2010, in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 4:59 p.m. by Committee Chairman Alan Tabachnick. Present were Board Vice-President, Sue Moore; Board members, Beth Suchsland, Tom Sigafos and Bernie Brady; Superintendent, Dr. Vincent Cotter and Assistant Superintendent, Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer. Also in attendance were Director of Pupil Services and Special Ed., Karen Berk; administrators Dr. Liz McKeaney, Sergio Anaya, Maria Bellino, Donna Gaffney, Kathleen Hamill, Rebe Hayes Kennedy and Eileen Spector; PWHS Assistant Principal Joe Carracappa; community members Mrs. Linda Doll and Tom Davis; and Administrative Assistant Marge Gramlich.*

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

**Revised Gifted Eligibility Determination Guidelines:** In light of recent changes to the *Chapter 16* regulations, including specific criteria for screening procedures to identify gifted students, CSD Psychologists Dr. Angela Curry and Dr. Aviele Koffler presented universal screening guidelines which have been developed by CSD psychologists over the last year to assist in identifying gifted students. The *SAGES Reasoning* test will be administered by gifted teachers and counselors to all second grade students in the Colonial School District starting in September 2010. Those that meet or exceed the cutoff score will be referred to a counselor for additional assessment, including specific area of giftedness. It was noted that all scales, including SAGES, Chuska Scales, Gifted Ratings Scale, teacher and parental input forms, WISC-IV and WIAT-III, are taken into consideration before a GIEP is developed. Screenings may also be given for students newly admitted to CSD or at the request of parents.

**Summer School Programs:** Joe Carracappa, Assistant Principal at PWHS, presented strategic changes and improvements to the Summer Bridge Program at PWHS. These changes include scheduling the program later in the summer (August 2<sup>nd</sup> through August 20<sup>th</sup>) and insuring that participating students play a role in the PWHS Orientation Day. In addition, this year the Bridge Program will be offered to incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade parochial and private school students who are new to CSD. Four ninth grade teachers will facilitate the Summer Bridge Program. The culminating trip will be a visit to a local university.

Mr. Carracappa also proposed a "Jump Start Program" consisting of three, two-hour mini-sessions during which students will be given their schedules and a tour of the building. It is expected that these mini-sessions will serve up to 150 students who, while not requiring the full structure of the Summer Bridge Program, could benefit from more attention. While we will be serving a greater number of students this year, the program cost represents a significant savings over last year.

**Special Ed. Summer Programs:** Eileen Spector, Secondary Special Education Supervisor, shared information about the Extended School Year (ESY) program for identified 6-12 grade Special Ed. students with IEPs. This Life Skills Support class will serve approximately 13

students who will receive functional academics, community-based, social/recreation and daily living skills instruction.

The Summer Learning Academy for students in grades 5-7 who do not qualify for ESY services, but who require skill remediation, will provide instruction in reading and mathematics to approximately 23 students. Pre- and post-testing will be performed.

An Autistic Support class for those students identified to move up to Colonial Middle School will be added this year. These secondary programs will be held at Colonial Middle School.

Rebe Hayes Kennedy, Elementary Special Education Supervisor, reported that a Learning Support program serving 22 students in grades K-5 will focus on one or two pre-determined goals and work on achieving skill maintenance during the summer.

Mrs. Hayes Kennedy stated that an Autistic Support Program for K-5 students to address speech and language, academic and social skills instruction will serve approximately 24 students. These elementary Special Ed. programs will be held at Colonial Elementary School.

All Special Ed. Summer Programs are held four days per week from June 21<sup>st</sup> through July 22<sup>nd</sup>, four hours per day, and are funded by IDEA Federal Funds. Staffing will remain the same as last year.

**Technology for Girls:** Maria Bellino, Science Curriculum Supervisor, presented a proposal for a summer program designed to increase female interest in science and technology. The *Girls in Technology* Summer Academy would be held from June 14<sup>th</sup> through June 25<sup>th</sup> at PWHS for CSD students who are entering grades five through eight this summer. Five instructors will be utilized to teach two, four-hour training sessions for this introductory program. The fee for this two week program will be \$125. Enrollment is expected to be a minimum of 15 and maximum of 25 girls. It is anticipated the early exposure to these concepts and fields will increase female student comfort level and in turn encourage the future enrollment of female students in technology-related courses. Program fees will cover the costs of this program.

**Enriched Learning Opportunities for High Achieving Students:** A study group comprised of community members, parents, teachers and administrators will be developed to discuss enriched learning opportunities for high achieving students. More on this topic will be forthcoming at the April Curriculum Committee of the Board meeting.

### **Curriculum Updates:**

- PSSA Updates – Dr. Liz McKeaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, distributed the Spring 2010 Assessment Calendar issued by the State. PSSA Testing will take place in April.
- Common Core Academic Standards Initiative – Dr. McKeaney briefly noted Pennsylvania's adoption of Common Core Standards in reading and math. She indicated that CSD's curriculum is aligned with state, national and some world standards. Our goal is to increase the rigor of our curriculum. This topic will be discussed further as more information becomes available.

- CIA Overview – Due to time constraints, an overview of the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Department will be rescheduled for the April Curriculum Committee of the Board meeting.

**Keystone Exams:** Dr. McKeaney briefly summarized the latest changes/updates to the graduation requirements for the class of 2015 as provided by the PDE. A State Review Committee is being created and will be responsible for examining core standards to develop the standards-based assessments for the Keystone Exams. Sergio Anaya, CSD Social Studies Curriculum Supervisor, has been chosen and is currently serving on the Social Studies Committee. Maria Bellino, Science Curriculum Supervisor, Donna Gaffney, Mathematics Curriculum Supervisor, and Kathleen Hamill, Language Arts Curriculum Supervisor, have applied to the selection board in their respective content areas for this State Committee. We will revisit this topic as new information becomes available.

**Penn Center for Educational Leadership Program:** Dr. Gorodetzer distributed and discussed information regarding the *Delaware Valley Minority Student Achievement Consortium* (“DVMSAC”). Objectives of the Consortium, and feedback from Mr. Sigafoos’ concerning his experience with this Consortium were discussed. It was agreed that in light of the similarity of programs currently offered for students, teachers and families in the Colonial School District and the significant enrollment fee associated with DVMSAC, we will not participate at this time.

**Conference Requests:** A conference request was presented for Pat Tamborello, College Counselor, to attend Salisbury University’s *Out of State Counselor Program* on April 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> in Salisbury, MD. Expenses, except for mileage, will be covered by Salisbury University. Consensus was given to present this conference request at the Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

There being no Public Comments, Chairman Tabachnick adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

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