

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2010, 5:00 P.M.

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, April 12, 2010, in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Committee Chairman Alan Tabachnick. Present were Board President, Gary Johnson; Board Vice-President, Sue Moore; 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, PWHS Principal Monica Sullivan; CMS Principal, Bob Fahler, as well as CMS Phys. Ed. Teacher, Bob Price; community members Mrs. Lauren Somers, Mrs. Linda Doll, Mr. Tom Davis and Ms. Hally Marrazzo; and Administrative Assistant Marge Gramlich.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

HPE Schedule at CMS: Mrs. Lauren Somers, parent of Colonial School District students, expressed her concerns about the HPE schedule at the Colonial Middle School. Mrs. Somers noted that she feels the current schedule, which provides for HPE classes for students for one marking period per year, is not sufficient. She shared information regarding the importance of physical activity and documentation of parent interest in increasing physical activity at CMS. Dr. Gorodetzer stated that she or Mr. Fahler will contact Mrs. Somers before the end of May to discuss potential opportunities for increasing scheduled physical activity for CMS students.

Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Department Overview: Dr. McKeaney, Director of the Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction Department, and Curriculum Supervisors Sergio Anaya, Maria Bellino, Donna Gaffney and Kathleen Hamill described the curriculum development process that has taken place in the Colonial School District since 2000. Among the achievements highlighted were movement from a textbook-based curriculum to a curriculum that incorporates 21st century technology, and establishing curriculum consistency and continuity across grade levels. The team described CSD's student-centered approach to teaching and learning. Professional Development areas of focus that support these changes were shared.

Enriched Learning Opportunities for High Achieving Students: Dr. McKeaney and Alan Tabachnick, Curriculum Committee Chairman, discussed the importance of expanding learning opportunities for high-achieving CSD students at the high school level. Action teams will be created to focus on developing a model to accomplish this initiative. An elementary, middle and high school model will be proposed. This will be revisited at the next Curriculum Committee of the Board meeting.

PWHS Grading Practices Update: Dr. Monica Sullivan reported on the PW PrEP recommendation to raise expectations for students by eliminating the "D" grade at the high school. This initiative was piloted in the Math and Language Arts Departments. Preliminary results indicate a substantial increase in students now achieving "C" grades. Further data will be collected during the 2010-11 school year prior to making a recommendation to expand this practice to other content areas.

Conference Requests: Conference requests were presented for high school teachers Mickey Engel and Kirk Kumfert to attend the Microsoft Technology Center on May 13-14, 2010 in New York City. Expenses for this conference will be funded by the CSD Technology Budget and the PWHHS Building Budget.

A conference request was presented for Ed Swetkowski to attend the AVID Northeast District Directors' Meeting in New York City on May 7, 2010. As the on-site AVID Director, Mr. Swetkowski's attendance at this meeting is required as a condition of our continuing AVID accreditation. The PWHHS Building Travel Budget will fund this trip.

Consensus was given to approve these conference requests at the Board Meeting on April 15th.

There being no Public Comments, Chairman Tabachnick adjourned the meeting at 6:29 p.m.

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