

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes May 17, 2010, 4:30 P.M.

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, May 17, 2010, in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m. by Committee Chairman Alan Tabachnick. Present were Board Vice-President, Sue Moore; Board members, Beth Suchsland, Kathleen Oxberry, Tom Sigafos, and Mitch Zimmer; 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, Assistant Principal Dan Balek, Mathematics Department Head Jill Ruggiero; CMS Assistant Principal, Katy Swetkowski; community members, Mrs. Linda Doll and Mr. Tom Davis; and Administrative Assistant Marge Gramlich.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Updates: Dan Balek, PWHS Site Administrator for AVID, reported on the AVID program at PWHS. Monica Sullivan, PWHS Principal, discussed a brief overview of the history of AVID at CSD. She reported that the AVID program is designed to serve students in the “academic middle” who might not have considered attending college. AVID provides them with strategies, extra support and a pathway to college. It was noted that most of the start-up and training costs for the AVID Program were funded by a College and Career Counseling grant award. Presently, CSD is the only AVID certified school district in Pennsylvania. Dan reported that 2010 AVID graduates have been awarded \$638,400 in college scholarships thus far.

Katy Swetkowski, AVID Site Administrator at CMS, discussed many aspects of the AVID program, including staffing, training, essential components, strategies and enrollment data. She noted that college visits for AVID students occur as early as 8th grade.

Eighth Grade AVID student Emanuel Kelly spoke about his participation in the AVID program and the benefits of his AVID experience at CMS.

Cherie Williams, PWHS senior shared her experience with the AVID program at the high school. Cherie credits the learning and support she received in the AVID Program with her acceptance by all five colleges to which she applied.

Strategies to improve organizational skills have been assimilated into the CES curriculum to support students' learning. These strategies mirror those in the AVID curriculum.

Early Childhood Programs Outreach: Kathleen Hamill reported that on June 1st an information session designed to share CSD's curricular expectations with community pre-school providers will be held at Ridge Park Elementary School. This program has been designed to better inform our pre-school feeder programs about curricular and instructional programs in CSD and hopefully enhance school readiness for new kindergarten students.

Summer Reading Lists: Kathleen Hamill shared that summer reading lists have been finalized and will be presented next week at Parent Council.

Girls in Technology: Maria Bellino shared an update of the Girls in Technology program that will be held at the PWHS Multipurpose room in June. Fifteen girls are currently enrolled in the two week program. Sergio Anaya will work with the CSD Technology Department to secure software and laptops. CSD has partnered with the local *Best Buy* who will lend us digital cameras and gaming equipment for the *Girls in Technology* program.

Summer Math Resources: Donna Gaffney reported that various math resources, including an answer key for parents of middle school students, will be distributed to elementary students and available on-line for all students this summer via the HUB.

Textbook Approval: Jill Ruggiero, Secondary Math Department Head, proposed the purchase of a Calculus-Honors textbook. This textbook will provide context-based learning aligned with CSD's integrated math curriculum. Two new sections of Honors Calculus will be offered in both the fall and the spring at PWHS. Costs for this textbook purchase will be covered by the PWHS building budget. Software to support the textbook will be provided by the publisher at no charge to CSD. Consensus was given to present this proposal at the Board Meeting on May 20th.

Math Curriculum: Donna Gaffney, Math Curriculum Supervisor, provided an overview of math curriculum and math student achievement in Colonial School District. Dr. Monica Sullivan, principal, and Mrs. Jill Ruggiero, PWHS Math Department Head, joined in the presentation. A description of the guiding principles of an integrated approach to math instruction was shared. Results from local, state and national assessments were highlighted. This longitudinal analysis reflected growth and continuous improvement in student achievement in mathematics across the district.

There being no Public Comments, Chairman Tabachnick adjourned the meeting at 5:46 p.m.

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