

Curriculum Committee of the Board Meeting Minutes September 14, 2009, 5:00 P.M.

The Curriculum Committee of the Colonial Board of School Directors met on Monday, September 14, 2009, in the Superintendent's Conference Room. The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by Committee Chairman, Tom Davis. Present were Superintendent, Dr. Vincent Cotter; Assistant Superintendent, Dr. MaryEllen Gorodetzer; Director of Pupil Services and Special Education, Karen Berk; Board Vice President, Sue Moore, Board Members Dr. Bill Ryan and Kelly Jowett. Also in attendance were Dr. Liz McKeaney, Donna Gaffney, Sergio Anaya, Kathleen Hamill, Maria Bellino, Eileen Specter, Rebe Hayes-Kennedy, Dave Sherman and Marge Gramlich.

Math and Language Arts Curriculum Review Executive Summary: Dr. Liz McKeaney presented an Executive Summary of the K-12 English/Language Arts and Mathematics internal curriculum review which was conducted during the 2008-2009 school year. The alignment between the delivery of instruction and curriculum goals/standards, local benchmarks, instructional materials and student performance was evaluated. Approximately seventy professional and administrative staff members participated in the review process. The results of this review indicated a high degree of curricular quality across K-12 English/Language Arts and Mathematics programs. Findings also suggested a need for further examination of curriculum at the transition grades such as from 5th to 6th and 8th to 9th. Donna Gaffney, Mathematics Supervisor and Kathleen Hamill, English/Language Arts Supervisor will meet with building administrators and teacher leaders to share findings and recommendations and develop an action plan based on these needs.

PSSA County Ranking for CSD: Dr. McKeaney presented Math and Reading Score Distribution data for Montgomery County based on State PSSA Scores comparing 2005 to 2009. Colonial School District third grade students are ranked **first** in Montgomery County in Math and Reading. It was notable that 80% our third graders are in the Advanced category for Mathematics. Significant gains in student performance were also noted across grade levels.

Science Curriculum Preliminary Report: Maria Bellino presented her findings of a science department inventory conducted among K-12 teachers. Strengths and challenges within each grade level/course were identified, and will be addressed through an ongoing review of the curriculum. Currently, the Science Benchmark assessments are being addressed and opportunities for professional development and supplemental resources are being investigated.

Curriculum Updates: Sergio Anaya presented information regarding the Curriculum Department's recent initiative to incorporate Project Based Learning into targeted elective area and social studies courses. Updates on the progress of this initiative will be provided at future Curriculum Committee meetings.

Digital Curriculum: Mr. Anaya demonstrated recent changes to the Colonial School District website, highlighting the information that is available to parents, teachers, administrators and the public.

AP Human Geography Textbook Review and Approval: Mr. Anaya requested approval of the School Board for two AP Human Geography textbooks. Mr. Anaya reported that the Social Studies Department is currently piloting a 9th grade AP Human Geography course on-line.

ESL Programs: Mr. Anaya discussed Colonial School district's ESL program and the advantages of training our teachers to support ELL Students using a push-in model. This model, termed SIOP, allows for the development of academic language and flexibility in using the ESL teachers to best support the needs of our students.

Summer Special Education Programs: Eileen Specter shared information on the five-week secondary *ESY* summer program for 2009 that included math, reading and daily living skills. Data indicated that 78% of the students maintained their skill level throughout the course.

The Summer Learning Academy provided services to 23 students in 6th through 8th grade. All students showed improvement in some areas of Math. An 8% increase in reading comprehension was reported. Parents indicated a high level of satisfaction with this program.

Rebe Hayes-Kennedy reported on the K-5 *ESY* program this summer. There were two Learning Support classes in which 100% of students either increased or maintained their skills. The two Autistic Support classes showed a 99% increase or maintenance of goals during the 6 week session.

Conference Requests: A conference request was reviewed for Jill Ruggiero and Maryann Russo to attend the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics in Boston, Mass. From October 21-23, 2009. Funding for costs associated with this conference will be provided by the PWHS Building Budget.

Conference requests will be presented for approval at the Board Meeting on September 17, 2009.

Tom Davis adjourned the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

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