



**West Windsor-Plainsboro Board of Education**  
Board Curriculum Committee Meeting  
Central Office  
October 3, 2011 10:00 AM

**Summary Notes**

**BOE Attendance:**

Chair – Richard Kaye

Rachelle Feldman Hurwitz

Dana Krug

**Administrative Liaison:**

David Aderhold

Victoria Kniewel

**Guests:**

Gerard Dalton

Dennis Lepold

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**DISCUSSION (●) / DECISION (\*)**

**I. (●) Middle Level Programming - Dennis Lepold & Gerard Dalton**

Mr. Leopold and Mr. Dalton were invited to discuss the entrance criteria for middle level mathematic honors classes. At both Grover and Community Middle Schools students must meet an established course criterion and receive their teacher's recommendation in order to be recommended for honor's placement in mathematics. Both Mr. Dalton and Mr. Lepold believe that the middle level represents a time in which students should be provided the opportunity to attempt entrance into honors classes. As a result they sought the permission of the curriculum committee to establish new criteria that will be utilized for students to gain entrance into honors. Furthermore, both principals believe that by establishing common criteria, de-emphasizing teacher recommendations and empowering student selection that the students will benefit and take greater responsibility for their academic success.

Mr. Lepold and Mr. Dalton also spoke with the committee about the Outdoor Education camping trips for 6<sup>th</sup> graders which will be held in June 2012. Both principals shared historical information about the evolution of the trip and their desire to review aspects of the programs moving forward. It was noted that the different in the size of the camps and their ability to accommodate all students impacted the contracts for both schools. Community Middle School contracts for a 3 day experience for all 6<sup>th</sup> graders at the same time. However, Grover Middle School has historically entered a contract with a different camp that can only accommodate ½ the 6<sup>th</sup> grade at a time. As a result, the trip is booked over 5 days with a mid day drop and pick up mid week.

**II. (●) Program of Studies**

The 2012 – 2013 high school program of studies was preliminarily discussed. Dr. Aderhold informed the committee of discussions with content supervisors and high school principals regarding the review honors and AP entrance criteria. Recommendations will be made at a subsequent Curriculum Committee meeting.

**III. (●) Program Review Updates**

Three program reviews were provided to the committee. The request for a consultant for the Language Arts program review was posted. At this time we have not received any applications.

The Social Studies program review is currently being completed. Mr. Lepold, Mr. McNamara, Mr. Wise, Ms. Buell and a committee of district staff have been working to complete the internal teams report. The committee is projecting completion in the late fall.

The internal team for the Special Education Department program review will be reconvening in mid-October to complete the work which began in February 2011. The committee is projecting completion of their review by December. Presentations to the curriculum committee and full BOE will follow.

#### **IV. (●) State Testing Update**

The committee briefly discussed district test scores from the 2010 – 2011 school year. A data presentation will be made at an upcoming Board of Education meeting.

#### **V. (\*) Renzulli Learning System**

The committee recommends the approval of a one-year site-license, from November 1, 2011 through October 31, 2012, with the Compass Learning Group to provide web-based differentiated instruction through the Renzulli Learning System for all K-3 students at a cost of \$12,000.

#### **VI. (\*) Professional Development**

With the utilization of No Child Left Behind Title II grant funds the curriculum committee recommends the approval of:

- The Reading and Writing Project Network training through Columbia University at a cost of approximately \$73,000. [The 2011-2012 contract covers consultant days and travel expenses].
- The Reading and Writing Project Network to provide 2011-2012 professional development services for administrators, according to state-mandated professional growth plans, at a cost not to exceed \$7,950.
- The Teachers College Reading and Writing Project to supply 75 tickets for the attendance by teachers and administrators to professional development workshops at Teachers College at Columbia University during the 2011-2012 school year, at a cost of \$3,750.
- To enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Foundation for Educational Administration (FEA) to provide mentoring management services for new administrators in the district at a cost of \$800 each. The district also agrees to reimbursement new administrators for the cost of their mentor at \$1,500 for the first year and \$1,000 for the second year.

#### **VII. (\*) Technology**

Also, with the utilization of No Child Left Behind Title II grant funds the curriculum committee recommends the approval of:

To approve a one-year agreement with Performance Matters to provide Performance Matters Accountability Edition™, a web-based integrated student assessment and

online testing system, at a cost of \$20,371.50 for the period October 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012. [Paid through 2012 No Child Left Behind Title II grant funds.]

### **VIII. (\*) Overnight Field Trips**

The Curriculum Committee has approved the recommendation of the following field trips:

#### High School South

1. Model United Nations to Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, from November 10, 2011, to November 13, 2011. The cost of the trip is approximately \$325 per student.
2. Model United Nations to Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, from December 1, 2011, to December 4, 2011. The cost of the trip is approximately \$270 per student.
3. Model United Nations to the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from January 26, 2012, to January 29, 2012. The cost of the trip is approximately \$325 per student.
4. Model United Nations to Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., from February 16, 2011, to February 19, 2012. The cost of the trip is approximately \$325 per student.
5. Model United Nations to Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, from March 7, 2012, to March 10, 2012. The cost of the trip is approximately \$325 per student.
6. Washington Seminar to Washington, D.C., from March 13, 2012, to March 17, 2012. The cost of the trip is approximately \$750 per student.

#### Middle Schools

1. Grover Middle School and Community Middle School German Students to Washington, D.C. from April 27, 2012, to April 28, 2012. The cost of the trip is approximately \$275 per student.
2. Grover Middle School students to Music Festival Showcase, Williamsburg, Virginia, from May 4, 2012, to May 6, 2012. The cost of the trip is approximately \$375 per student.
3. Grover Middle School Grade 6 Outdoor Education to Timber Tops Camp, Greeley, PA, from June 4, 2012, to June 8, 2012. The cost of the trip is approximately \$250 per student.
4. Community Middle School Grade 6 Outdoor Education to Camp Canadensis, Canadensis, PA, from June 6, 2012, to June 8, 2012. The cost of the trip is approximately \$225 per student.

The committee has requested that the Administration and Facilities Committee review the field trip policy in an effort to review the process and protocols in which field trips arrive in front of the Curriculum Committee for approval.

Next Meeting Date: November 7, 2011 10:00am, Central Office