



West Windsor-Plainsboro Board of Education
Board Curriculum Committee Meeting
Central Office
January 3, 2012 10:00 AM

Summary Notes

BOE Attendance:

Chair – Richard Kaye (via telephone)

Rachelle Feldman Hurwitz
Dana Krug

Administrative Liaison:

Martin Smith

David Aderhold
Victoria Kniewel – (absent)

Guests:

Lee McDonald

DISCUSSION (●) / DECISION (*)

I. (*) Program of Studies

The Curriculum Committee reviewed the three substantive changes to this year's POS.

- a. The addition of French 3 Honors – this course addition was previously approved by the Board. It will not require additional staff; current teachers will be reallocated to staff the course.
- b. Beginning with the class of 2014 the State implemented a Financial Literacy graduation requirement. The three courses offered by the district that allow students to meet the requirement have been specified in the POS. There is also an option ii Educere course that students can take to fulfill the requirement.
- c. The revision of the course placement criteria as per the Summary Course Selection Process approved by the Board on December 13, 2011.

It was recommended that the identification of which courses meet the specific graduation requirements be made clearer. The Committee agreed that an additional form should be created and placed online for parents and students to review that is separate from the Program of Studies. Mr. McDonald stated he had an idea of how to do this and would work to develop this.

The Curriculum Committee recommends that the Board review the draft of the 2012-2013 High School Program of Studies at the January 10 meeting and move to adopt the Program of Studies at its January 24th meeting.

II. (●) Program Review Updates

- The Social Studies internal team is finalizing its report and will then work to develop a final summary report of recommendations that include both the internal and external report recommendations. The Committee wants to be sure the quality of ideas in the external review does not get lost in the merging of the two documents. The final recommendations should be ready within the next two months for presentation to the committee.

- The Special Services internal team is continuing its work to complete the internal review. With the retirement of a staff member the process has been slowed a bit. Once the internal report is complete, the team will review the external report in order to make final recommendations to the Board.

III. (*) **Language Arts Program Review Vendor Selection**

The Curriculum Committee reviewed the RFP process to choose an external consultant to conduct the Language Arts program review. The Curriculum Committee recommends that the Board approve the Public Consulting Group, Inc., to serve as the external consultant to the Language Arts program review at a cost not to exceed \$15,000.

IV. (*) **Professional Development**

The Committee stated that they feel these are wonderful opportunities for staff growth.

- The Curriculum Committee recommends approval for one AP teacher to attend a one-day Saturday AP English Language and Composition Workshop on March 3, 2012 at a cost of \$205 plus travel.
- The Curriculum Committee recommends approval for ten administrators to attend a three-day Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from March 24, 2012, to March 26, 2012 at a cost of \$259 per person plus mileage and tolls.

V. (*) **Community Education Spring/Summer 2012 Classes and Trips**

The Committee discussed the course offerings of the Community Education classes and trips. It was clarified that only courses that meet enrollment are actually offered. It was noted that some community members have expressed that they would like to see better marketing of these offerings.

- The Curriculum Committee recommends approval of the Community Education Spring & Summer 2012 course listing.

VI. (*) **Woodruff Award**

The Curriculum Committee is delighted to acknowledge and recommend acceptance by the Board of the \$500 award for the District being named the 2011 recipient of the ACTFL Melba D. Woodruff Award for Exemplary Elementary Foreign Language Programs. This honor attests to the district's outstanding program for elementary students and recognition by the language profession of our commitment to language education.

VII. (*) **Overnight Field Trip**

High School North

The Curriculum Committee recommends approval of an overnight field trip for HS North music students to Berlin, Germany, from November 6, 2012, to November 13, 2012. The cost of the trip is approximately \$2,115 per student.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, February 13, 2012

Future Topics

The Committee would like updates on the program reviews (Social Studies, Language Arts and Special Services) and an update on district trends in testing data.