



West Windsor-Plainsboro Board of Education
Board Curriculum Committee Meeting
Central Office Conference Room
October 8, 2012 11:00 AM

SUMMARY NOTES

BOE Attendance:

Chair – Richard Kaye

Rachelle Feldman Hurwitz

Dana Krug

Administrative Liaison:

Martin Smith

David Aderhold

Victoria Kniewel

Guests:

Lee McDonald

Rick Cave

DISCUSSION (●) / DECISION (*)

I. (●) Option ii

Economics is the number one course that students are taking for option ii. This allows students to fulfill the financial literacy graduation requirement thus opening their schedules to take other courses during the school year. The majority of the other option ii courses are focused on math, social studies & science. There are not large numbers of students in each of these courses. The final exams serve as a monitor to verify the quality of learning.

II. (●) Mercer County Community College On-line Courses Discussion

The district is investigating entering into a memorandum of agreement with MCCC to allow high school students to take on-line courses for both high school and college credit. This will allow the district to ensure the quality and rigor of the courses and associated assessments. The CC supports these discussions.

III. (●) Rider University - College Credits for Tomorrow's Teachers

The CC supports entering into an agreement with Rider University to allow students enrolled in Youth Teaching Youth to take this for college credit. This will allow students to receive dual enrollment credit as they investigate the possibility of entering into education as a profession.

IV. (●) Program of Studies

There are 2 proposed changes to the Program of Studies

1. TV Production - eliminate the pre-requisite to take Broadcast Writing. This requirement is not necessary given students background in writing and the middle school students who have taken TV production at that level.
2. Biology Honors - eliminate the pre-requisite to be simultaneously enrolled in Geometry Honors, so that students just need to be enrolled in a Geometry course. Since students are currently succeeding in Biology Honors, but not Geometry Honors it does not make sense to force them out of Biology Honors.

The CC discussed the possibility of offering World History Honors and decided not to move forward on this at this time.

V. (●) Summer Assignments follow-up

At this time the district has established consistent assignments across teachers and high schools for Advanced Placement courses. Progress was made on the assignments for middle school language arts, at this time continued work needs to occur for high school Language Arts & Social Studies assignments and the assessments given for summer work. The CC discussed eliminating summer work for middle school math and replacing this with suggestions for practice.

VI. (●) Program Review Updates

- Special Services is starting to implement the recommendations from their program review and will vet this through the Special Education PTSA.
- The internal team for Language Arts is drafting its report this month. In November they will review the external report and draft the Executive Summary and Final Recommendations. This will be reviewed at the December CC meeting. The formal presentations of the Internal and external reports are scheduled for the January 15 Board meeting.
- The supervisors in other content areas that had program reviews previously are in the process of completing the template for updates on the status of recommendations implementation.

VII. (●) World Languages Review

A committee is being formed to review language offerings and program design.

VIII. (●) Research Project Proposal – R. McLelland-Crawley

The Superintendent has approved the proposed research project relating to teacher engagement in Professional Learning Communities.

IX. (*) Teacher Evaluation Instrument

To recommend adoption of the Charlotte Danielson Framework for Teaching (2007 Edition) as the teacher evaluation instrument for the District.

The NJDOE requires formal Board adoption. The CC supports the recommendation.

X. (*) Renzulli Learning System

To recommend approval of a one-year site-license, from November 1, 2012 through October 31, 2013, with the Compass Learning Group to provide web-based differentiated instruction through the Renzulli Learning System for all K-3 buildings at a cost of \$18,000.

The CC supports the recommendation.

XI. (*) STARTALK Grant Application

To recommend approval to submit the 2013 STARTALK grant application for Hindi/Urdu Summer Immersion Camp in the amount of approximately \$99,500 [West Windsor-Plainsboro will serve as lead agency].

The CC supports the recommendation.

XII. (*) Professional Development

To recommend approval for IDE to provide non-tenured teacher training at various dates throughout the 2012-2013 school year at a cost of \$9,840. [Paid through NCLB Title II funds.]

The CC supports the recommendation.

XIII. (*) Overnight Field Trips

To recommend approval of the following overnight field trips:

High School North

- a. Model United Nations to Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, from November 29, 2012, to December 2, 2012. The cost of the trip is approximately \$320 per student.
- b. Model United Nations to the Ivy League Conference, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from January 24, 2013, to January 27, 2013. The cost of the trip is approximately \$375 per student.
- c. Model United Nations to Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, from February 22 2013, to February 24, 2013. The cost of the trip is approximately \$375 per student.
- d. Model United Nations to George Washington University, Washington, D.C., from March 21, 2013, to March 24, 2013. The cost of the trip is approximately \$375 per student.
- e. Senior Class to Disney World, Orlando, Florida, from March 7, 2013, to March 11, 2013. The cost of the trip is approximately \$1,200 per student.
- f. Washington Seminar to Washington, D.C., from March 19, 2013, to March 23, 2013. The cost of the trip is approximately \$775 per student.
- g. Special Olympics to Wildwood, New Jersey, from April 6, 2013, to April 7, 2013. There is no cost for this trip.

High School South

- a. Model United Nations to Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, from November 15, 2012, to November 18, 2012. The cost of the trip is approximately \$375 per student.
- i. Model United Nations to Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, from November 29, 2012, to December 2, 2012. The cost of the trip is approximately \$320 per student.
- j. Model United Nations to the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from January 24, 2013, to January 27, 2013. The cost of the trip is approximately \$375 per student.
- k. Model United Nations to Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., from February 14, 2013, to February 17, 2013. The cost of the trip is approximately \$375 per student.
- l. Washington Seminar to Washington, D.C., from March 12, 2013, to March 16, 2013. The cost of the trip is approximately \$775 per student.

- m. Senior Class Trip to Disney World, Orlando, Florida, from March 14, 2013, to March 18, 2013. The cost of the trip is approximately \$1,200 per student.
- n. Model United Nations to George Washington University, Washington, D.C., from March 21, 2013, to March 24, 2013. The cost of the trip is approximately \$375 per student.
- o. Model United Nations to George Washington University, Washington, D.C., from April 11, 2013, to April 14, 2013. The cost of the trip is approximately \$375 per student.

Middle Schools

- p. Grover Middle School and Community Middle School German Students to Washington, D.C. from April 26, 2013, to April 27, 2013. The cost of the trip is approximately \$275 per student.
- q. Grover Middle School Grade 6 Outdoor Education to Timber Tops Camp, Greeley, PA, from June 10, 2013, to June 14, 2013. The cost of the trip is approximately \$250 per student.
- r. Community Middle School Grade 6 Outdoor Education to Camp Canadensis, Canadensis, PA, from June 5, 2013, to June 7, 2013. The cost of the trip is approximately \$225 per student.

The CC supports the recommendations.

XIV. (*) Closed Session.

The CC moved into closed session to discuss issues related to personnel.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, November 5, 2012 11:00am

Future Topics

Professional Development

Field Trip Approvals

Program Review Updates

Leveling of Programs at the high school level

Weighting of courses at the high school level