



West Windsor-Plainsboro Board of Education
Board Curriculum Committee Meeting
Grover Main Office Conference Room
April 8, 2013 11:00 AM

SUMMARY NOTES

BOE Attendance:

Chair – Richard Kaye

Rachelle Feldman Hurwitz

Dana Krug

Michelle Kaish - Guest

Administrative Liaison:

Martin Smith

Victoria Kniewel

David Aderhold

Guests:

Rick Cave

DISCUSSION (●) / DECISION (*)

I. (*) Technology Plan – Rick Cave

The Curriculum Committee discussed the draft technology plan. The mission, vision and belief statements define technology as a tool to support high-quality teaching and learning that is aligned with the 21st Century Competencies. The vision is for students in grades K-3 to have experience with cloud-based learning and iPads. In fourth grade students would focus on developing information literacy skills (along with keyboarding) so that they would be ready to have a device to use to support all learning in 5th grade. The plan proposes a small pilot (200 devices) next school year. Mr. Smith will make a formal presentation of the proposed plan at the April 30 Board meeting.

II. (●) NJ School Performance Reports

The Curriculum Committee reviewed the performance reports from all 10 schools. These newly released reports replace the previous school report cards. The summary data relates to academic achievement, college and career readiness and student growth or graduation and post-secondary performance. The metrics for each measure change depending upon the grade level and what data the state has available. Previously district factor groups were used to make comparisons. These have been changed to peer groups determined by free & reduced lunch percentage, limited English percentage and special education percentage. Each of the 10 schools in district has a different peer group. Overall the district fares well in comparison to both the State and peer groups. The one exception is for college and career readiness at the K-5 level. The metric used for this is attendance rates. When the metric changes in middle and high school, the district outperforms the state and its peer groups.

III. (●) Summer Assignments

- Language Arts
- Social Studies

The Curriculum Committee reviewed draft assignments for language arts and social studies. The language arts assignments give students clear directions for what they need to do while reading in the summer as well as establish instructional strategies for reviewing this work upon return to school in September. The Committee recommended no summer assignment for Social Studies courses prior to AP so that it is in line with the other content areas.

IV. (●) High School Mid-term Exam Schedule 2013-14

The high school administration and staff have reviewed the proposed re-design of the mid-term exam schedule. Instead of a single exams administered on a single day at the end of January, students will complete a series of assessment tasks during the first semester and these will be averaged to provide the mid-term grade. The mid-term grade will continue to be weighted as 10% of the overall final grade.

V. (●) Research Proposal – Carol Lynn Spirko

The researcher proposes to study teacher attitudes toward students with autism spectrum disorders.

The Curriculum Committee supports the proposed research study.

VI. (*) To Adopt the Curricula for 2013-2014 School Year

It is recommended that approval be given to adopt all existing curricula based upon the New Jersey Core Content Standards (Arts; Health/ Physical Education; Language Arts Literacy; Mathematics; Science; Social Studies; World Languages; Technology; and Career Education), textbooks, and course offerings for the district and each school.

The Curriculum Committee recommends approval of the 2013-14 curriculum.

VII. (*) Professional Development

To recommend approval for Learner-Centered Initiatives, Ltd. to provide 2 days of professional development in the use of the Multidimensional Principal Performance Rubric (MPPR) for all district administrators at a cost of \$3,250. The training will take place at Princeton Public Schools. MPPR was adopted on February 12, 2013 as the official Principal Evaluation Instrument for the district.

The Curriculum Committee recommends approval for LCI to provide 2 days of professional development.

VIII. (*) STARTALK Grant Acceptance

To recommend acceptance of the STARTALK grant for \$99,028 for Hindi and Urdu Summer Immersion Camps for the period March 1, 2012 through February 28, 2013.

The Curriculum Committee recommends acceptance of the grant monies.

IX. (* Science Kits

To recommend approval to enter into an agreement with ECA Educational Services to provide science kit refurbishing services for the 2013-2014 school year.

The Curriculum Committee recommends approval of the purchase.

X. (* Overnight Field Trips

To recommend approval for the following overnight field trips

- High School North and High School South Academic Decathlons to attend the National Competition in Minneapolis, Minnesota, from April 24, 2013 to April 27, 2013. The cost of the trip is approximately \$750 per student.
- High School North Model Congress to New Brunswick, NJ to attend the National Competition from April 18, 2013 to April 22, 2013. The cost of the trip is approximately \$300 per student.
- High School South Science Olympiad to Dayton, Ohio, from May 16, 2013 to May 19, 2013. The cost of the trip is approximately \$600 per student.

The Curriculum Committee recommends approval of the field trips.

XI. (* Travel Approval

To recommend approval for the District to support the High School and Middle School Future Problem Solvers to the International FPS Competition at Indiana University by financially supporting two chaperones to accompany the teams to Bloomington, Indiana, at a cost not to exceed \$1,200 each.

The Curriculum Committee recommends approval of support for 2 chaperones.

XII. (* Closed Session - Enter into Closed Session to discuss items with personnel implications.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, April 15, 2013

Future Topics

World Languages Survey

Program Review Updates