



West Windsor-Plainsboro Board of Education
Board Curriculum Committee Meeting
Superintendent's Office Conference Room
March 18, 2014 5:30 PM

SUMMARY NOTES

BOE Attendance:

Chair – Richard Kaye
Rachelle Feldman Hurwitz
Scott Powell

Administrative Liaison:

Martin Smith
David Aderhold

Guests:

DISCUSSION (●) / DECISION (*)

I. (●) K-5 Computers & Music

The Curriculum Committee discussed the move of the K-1 computer cycle to the upper elementary grades in order to create an uninterrupted third through seventh grade articulated curriculum in computers. Starting in third grade allows the district to prepare the students for the PARCC exams. The K-1 computer specials are a preparation period for teachers, so these need to be replaced. They will be replaced by music for students. Currently kindergartners do not have a music class and first grade has 1 period per week.

II. (●) Middle School World Languages

The Curriculum Committee discussed the enrollment numbers for Hindi in the sixth grade. There were 24 students at CMS and 20 at GMS who registered to study Hindi that did not indicate that Hindi is spoken in the home. These are not sufficient numbers to offer the language next year. The Committee will continue to consider the introduction of Hindi in the future.

III. (●) Read 180 - Community Middle School program update

The Curriculum Committee reviewed the preliminary data from the Title I Read 180 program at Community Middle School. 76% of the students have demonstrated at least one year's reading growth. These early results are promising, but before we recommend moving forward with the program and the district assuming the full cost for the program we need to examine additional data such as the impact on regular classroom performance or the students' performance on the NJASK. This data will be reviewed as it becomes available to determine if the program warrants extension to Grover Middle School.

IV. (●) HSN Biology Pilot

The Curriculum Committee discussed parent and student concerns about the pilot program taking place in the classes of two teachers at High School North. The Committee reviewed the concerns in the program related to grading, feedback, instructional strategies and pacing. In addition to the need for adjustments for this school year, the Committee discussed processes for evaluating the program to determine the pilot's future.

V. (*) Professional Development Travel Approval

To recommend approval for the following:

- a) Up to five teachers to attend the Quest & Connect-Ed Summer Institute or the Quest 2014 Scholars Program offered through Princeton University TeacherPrep, Rider University, and the Science Education and Literacy Center (SELECT), at a total cost not to exceed \$2,500, including supplies and materials.

- b) One teacher resource specialist to attend the institute on the Teaching of Reading and Writing, from Monday, August 4, 2014, through Friday August 15, 2014, at Columbia University, New York City, at a total cost of \$1,500.
- c) Up to six teachers to attend *Preparing for Google Apps EDU Certification* training at Kean University, Union, New Jersey, from May 8, 2014, to May 9, 2014. Teachers will use professional development money for registration; Mileage and tolls will be covered by the district.

The Curriculum Committee recommends approval of the PD opportunities.

VI. (*) Travel Approval

To recommend approval for the District to support a High School Student to attend the 2014 National Association of Student Council Members Conference by financially supporting one teacher to accompany the student to Ocoee High School in Orlando Florida from June 24 through June 30, 2014, at a total cost of \$1,599. The trip is organized by the New Jersey Association of Student Councils.

The Curriculum Committee recommends approval of the travel.

VII. (*) STARTALK Grant Acceptance

To recommend acceptance of the STARTALK grant for \$89,990 for Hindi and Urdu Summer Immersion Camps for the period April 2014 through February 2015.

The Curriculum Committee recommends acceptance of the grant.

VIII. (*) 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 at a cost of approximately \$94,000.

The Curriculum Committee recommends approval of the agreement.

IX. (*) Overnight Field Trips

To recommend approval for the following overnight field trips

- To recommend approval for High School South Junior Statesmen of America to attend a conference in Parsippany, New Jersey, from April 12, 2014, to April 13, 2014. The cost of the trip is approximately \$120 per student.
- High School North Robotics team to Lehigh University, Lehigh, Pennsylvania to attend the National Competition from April 12, 2014 to April 14, 2014. The cost of the trip is approximately \$175 per student.
- High School North Robotics team to St. Louis, Missouri, to attend the International Competition from April 23, 2014 to April 26, 2014. The cost of the trip is approximately \$900 per student.
- Community Middle School Lego Robotics team to San Diego, California, to attend the National Competition from May 15, 2014 to May 18, 2014. The cost of the trip is approximately \$900 per student.

The Curriculum Committee recommends approval of the field trips.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 8, 2014 @ 5:30 pm

Future Topics

Program Review Updates

Summer Assignments