



West Windsor-Plainsboro Board of Education
Board Curriculum Committee Meeting
Superintendent's Office
November 11, 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. (●) Middle School German Field trip

The CC discussed the approval of the middle school German trip. Mr. Kaye had surveyed most Board members and they were in agreement that they would approve this trip. The teacher will be informed that she can submit an overnight trip proposal.

II. (●) Program of Studies

The CC began its review of the proposed 2015-16 Program of Studies:

- Financial Literacy (2.5 credits) will replace Consumer Economics (5.0 credits) – this will allow students to fulfill the high school graduation requirement and take it opposite their study hall.
- Courses in the Business/Computer Science and Language Arts Departments that previously were allowed to provide Visual & Performing Arts credit will no longer count since the teachers are not highly-qualified in the appropriate content area.
- Courses in the Art department will allow a portfolio review as an alternate way to meet course prerequisite requirements.
- Courses in the Computer department that were previously semester courses will be combined to create year-long courses. (Computer Apps (retitled Digital Literacy), Intro to Computer Programming & Graphic Computer Applications) The course descriptions of these courses have been updated to reflect 21st Century skills and alignment to the recently adopted NJ Core Content Standards.
- The Artificial Intelligence & Robotics course has been rebranded to Principles of Engineering starting a new course in an Engineering department.
- The semester courses in Language Arts will be phased out. Language Arts IV (CP & Honors) have been added in their place. The Reading AHSA course will be eliminated since this was preparation for HSPA that no longer exists.
- Geometry will have only three level of courses (Geometry CP, Honors & Honors & Accelerated) instead of four levels. This allows for an alignment to the Common Core and associated PARCC assessment.
- The names of Concert Band and Symphonic Band have been reversed to reflect how they are actually referred to by the schools.
- Several courses in the Science department have updated the course descriptions to reflect the Next Gen Science Standards. Oceanography & Meteorology have been eliminated since no students have signed up for these courses for the past several years.
- Several courses in the Social Studies department have been updated to reflect the Common Core Standards. It was recommended adding in a reference to primary source documents in these course descriptions.
- Latin IV will be offered on-line next school year and be the last year to offer Latin.

- The description of the ESL program was updated to accurately reflect the courses offered.
- The Independent Study option has been eliminated. It is eliminated from the Program of Study for the 15-16 school year since there is only voluntary participation on the part of teachers and little accountability for students in the work done. Students can follow Option ii procedures to study courses not offered by the district.
- The descriptions of the Special Education programs have been updated. It was recommended that the LARKS program be renamed.
- The description of the Mercer County Technical Schools program has been updated.
- Several changes for Option ii have been recommended:
 - Credit may be earned for a maximum of one course in one year (July 1 – June 30), previously students could receive credit for two courses in a single year.
 - Students may only take one course per sequence and/or subject area throughout their entire high school career.
 - Students are encouraged to complete all option ii coursework by the fall semester of their senior year in order to ensure fulfillment of high school graduation requirements. Exceptions may be made with approval of the director of guidance or the building principal.
 - If a student fails an Option ii course, they must take the district course and may not retake the course via option ii.

III. (●) Research Project by Janice Lyczkowski, Community Middle School Teacher

The CC reviewed the research proposal that the CMS teacher has proposed and that the Superintendent is recommending to allow this to happen.

IV. (*) Gifted & Talented Program Review Vendor Selection

To recommend approval of Consultants for High Ability, to serve as the external consultant to the Gifted & Talented program review at a cost not to exceed \$23,000.
The CC recommends approval of this vendor.

V. (*) Technology

Student Information System

To recommend approval of the following services in regards to Infinite Campus, the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District Student Information System:

- To approve the annual subscription with Custom Computer Specialists, Inc., for the Infinite Campus District Edition student information data system software license and support from December 1, 2014, to November 30, 2015, in the amount of \$124,747.80, based upon enrollment. [There is no change in the per-student subscription cost.]
- To approve the renewal of a one-year subscription for on-line student registration from December 1, 2014, to November 30, 2015, in the amount of \$7,500.

The CC recommends approval of the purchase of these services.

VI. (*) StarTalk Grant Acceptance

To recommend the submission of the 2015 STARTALK grant application for Hindi/Urdu Summer Immersion Camp in the amount of approximately \$89,970. [WW-P will serve as lead agency.]

The CC recommends approval of the submission of the grant.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2014 5:30pm

Future Topics

Second Reading of the POS

Professional Development

Field Trip Approvals

Program Review Updates