



West Windsor-Plainsboro Board of Education
Board Curriculum Committee Meeting
Superintendent's Office Conference Room
March 3, 2015 7:30 PM

SUMMARY NOTES

BOE Attendance:

Dana Krug – Chair
Issac Cheng
Scott Powell

Administrative Liaison:

Martin Smith
David Aderhold

Guests:

Barbara Gould

DISCUSSION (●) / DECISION (*)

I. (●) K-5 Schedule

The CC reviewed the proposed schedule changes to the K-3 & 4-5 buildings.

The Scheduling Goals

- Increase the consistency and get closer to alignment between schedules K-5
- Maximize instructional minutes
- MRS- create a schedule with 4 lunches to accommodate all three grade levels
- Maintain the Board recommended instructional minutes for each content area:
 - Reading Workshop: 60 minutes
 - Writing Workshop: 40 minutes
 - Math: 60 minutes
 - Science: 80 minutes weekly
 - Social Studies: 80 minutes weekly
 - Read Aloud/Grammar/Word Study
- Provide students with opportunities to participate in music programs during the school day
- Provide opportunities for students to participate in a variety of specials (Art, Music, Computers, Health, World Language, Physical Education)
- Maximize space and classroom usage
- Consider schedules for students with specialized programs (Special Education, A&E, Basic Skills, ESL, Speech, etc..)

4-5 Changes

- The start time and end time was adjusted by ten minutes for alignment purposes
- 8 period day- 29 periods a week
- 42 minute periods with 5 minute passing time
- All students will participate in an ensemble (chorus, band or orchestra)
- Half the grade level will have ensembles one period, the other half will have a different period in order to accommodate the number of students in the music program

II. (●) Job Description: Teacher Resource Specialist for Curriculum & Instruction

The CC reviewed the job description for a new position. The K-5 Teacher Resource Specialist would work in buildings to support teachers in implementing the curriculum to reach all learners. The CC recommends approval of this job description.

III. (●) Grade 8 STEM Elective

The CC reviewed a proposed new elective course for 8th graders that would combine Computers and Design Engineering. The CC recommends that the district do a small scale pilot (1 section of about 50 students total at each middle school) for next school year.

IV. (●) Professional Development Updates

The committee reviewed the survey results from the February 19 in-service day. It was positively received with teachers reporting that the day was valuable and allowed them opportunities to learn new things that they can bring to their classrooms. The teachers said they would like to see a day like this repeated again.

V. (*) Professional Development Travel Approval

To recommend approval for the following:

- a) Four teachers to attend the Quest & Connect-Ed Summer Institute or the Quest 2015 Scholars Program offered through Princeton University TeacherPrep, Rider University, and the Science Education and Literacy Center (SELECT), at a total cost not to exceed \$1,000, including supplies and materials.
- b) Two teachers to attend the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) Summer Institute at Raritan Valley Community College from July 27 through July 31, 2015, at a total cost not to exceed \$500.

The CC recommends approval of the professional development opportunities.

VI. (*) STARTALK Grant Acceptance

To recommend acceptance of the STARTALK grant for \$89,970 for Hindi and Urdu Summer Immersion Camps for the period March 2015 through February 2016.

The CC recommends acceptance of the grant.

VII. (*) Overnight Field Trips

To recommend approval for the following:

- To correct the dates of the District Robotics team to Lehigh University, Lehigh, Pennsylvania to April 9, 2015 to April 11, 2015. The cost of the trip remains approximately \$175 per student. The trip was originally approved on February 17, 2015.

The CC recommends approval of the changed dates.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015

Future Topics

K-5 Report Card

Summer Assignments