



West Windsor-Plainsboro Board of Education
Board Curriculum Committee Meeting
Central Office Conference Room
July 7, 2015 6:30 PM

AGENDA

BOE Attendance:

Dana Krug – Chair
Isaac Cheng
Scott Powell
Yingchao Zhang

Administrative Liaison:

Martin Smith
David Aderhold

Guests:

DISCUSSION (●) / DECISION (*)

I. (●) High School Mid-term & Final Exams

The Curriculum Committee discussed the current structure of mid-terms and final exams. Currently the mid-term exam is divided into multiple sections that are spread out over the first semester. Students have expressed the feeling that there are now many more assessments and that the last part is administered for most classes at the end of the second marking period. Teachers have expressed that the multi-part exams make it difficult to have an adequate number of assessments for the marking period grades. Even though the last four days of the school year are set aside for the final exams, many students have multiple parts for these exams that are administered the last full weeks of classes. This means that students are assessing continuously throughout the month of June. Since there are no classes after these exams, the only feedback that students receive on the exam is the grade thus providing no opportunity to review the exams with students. The CC also discussed the weighting of these exams and how for many students these exams do not impact their final grades. Given these concerns, the elimination of these exams was discussed. The CC affirmed their approval of their elimination. As we move forward we will focus our efforts on the common assessments already in place in each course. There is a need to critically examine the design of common assessments as well as have teachers engage in reflective dialogue about how student performance on these assessments impacts instructional choices. Future professional development work on assessment needs to ensure that effective assessment practices that promote student learning are consistently implemented.

II. (●) Review of District Goals

The CC reviewed the final draft of the District Goals that were developed and reviewed during the June Board Retreat. Goal One focuses on continual improvement to the instructional program, Goal Two focuses on the budget and facilities and Goal Three focuses on developing the professional growth of direct leadership. These will be posted on the district web-site once all Board Committees have reviewed them.

III. (●) Merit Goals for the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendents

The CC reviewed the Superintendent's and the Asst. Superintendent's merit goals for the 2015-16 school year and recommends their submission to the County Office.

IV. (●) District Professional Development

Administrative Retreat – August 11, 12, 13, 14, 2015

New Teacher Orientation – August 24, 25, 26, 27, 2015

Opening Day - September 1, 2015

The CC reviewed upcoming PD that will be happening this summer and at the start of the new school year.

V. (*) Professional Development

To recommend approval for the following professional development:

- Foundation for Educational Administration (FEA) to provide mentoring management services for new administrators in the district at a cost of \$800 each. The district also agrees to reimburse new administrators for the cost of their mentor at \$1,500 for the first year and \$1,000 for the second year.
- District membership in Teachers as Scholars at Princeton University for the 2014-2015 school year at a cost of \$2,000. Membership includes admission to seven Teachers as Scholars seminars and one Administrator as Scholars seminar.
- Entering into a contract with New York University Reading Recovery to provide 2015-2016 Reading Recovery professional development and technical support for ten (10) reading recovery teachers at a cost of \$9,500 plus travel.
- Entering into an agreement with the New York City Department of Education to provide 2015-2016 Reading Recovery professional development to a new reading recovery teacher at a cost of \$16,020, plus travel.

The CC recommends approval of the PD opportunities.

VI. (*) NJ Virtual School

To recommend approval for Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission NJ Virtual School to provide online Latin IV courses, as outlined in the 2015-2016 High School Program of Studies, at a cost not to exceed \$650 per student.

The CC recommends approval of the registration for these students.

VII. (*) Grants

- To recommend submission of the entitlement grant of \$574,769 for the “No Child Left Behind Act” Consolidated formula sub-grant from the State of New Jersey (formerly the IASA), for the Fiscal Year 2016.

Title I Part A	\$284,299
Title II Part A	\$106,075
Title III	\$ 55,615
Title III Immigrant	\$128,780

The CC recommends approval of the grant submission.

- To recommend approval of the following StarTalk Hindi/Urdu Program consultants for services provided from June 1, 2015, to February 28, 2016 [funded by the StarTalk grant.]
 - Hilary Wilder: Professional Development Trainer
 - Julia Meyers: Coordinator
 - Hajrah Butt: Junior Teacher
 - Nimra Yaqoob: Junior Teacher
 - Sameen Butt: Junior Teacher
 - Parnika Puri: Junior Teacher

The CC recommends approval of the consultants.

VIII. (●) Proposed Future Meeting Dates

- September 1, 2015
- September 21, 2015 (After Board meeting)
- October 13, 2015
- November 10, 2015
- December 8, 2015
- January 19, 2016

The CC discussed and approves the proposed dates.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 6:30pm

Future Topics

Field Trip Approvals

Revised Curriculum Approvals