



**West Windsor-Plainsboro Board of Education**  
Board Curriculum Committee Meeting  
Board Office Conference Room  
March 1, 2016 6:30 PM

**Summary Notes**

**BOE Attendance:**

Dana Krug – Chair  
Anthony Fleres  
Yingchao Zhang

**Administrative Liaison:**

Martin Smith  
David Aderhold

**Guests:**

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**DISCUSSION (●) / DECISION (\*)**

**I. (●) Elementary & Secondary Education Act Accountability Profiles**

The Committee reviewed the preliminary 2015 ESEA Accountability Profiles for the district and each school. Since last year was the first year of administration of the PARCC exams, this year is a “hold-harmless” year in regards to the Performance measures and serves as a baseline from which improvement will be measured each year. Because there was insufficient participation at the district level for Limited English Proficient students in Language Arts, The NJDOE requires the district to write an action plan to work to improve the participation rate. Also, High School North, High School South, Grover Middle School and Dutch Neck Elementary school also failed to meet sufficient participation rates (95%) for various groups of students so action plans are required to be written and submitted to the NJDOE to detail the steps the district will take to improve participation rates to meet the State requirement of 95% of students taking the PARCC exam.

**II. (\*) ESEA Accountability Action Plan - Participation Rate**

To recommend submission of the 2015 Participation Rate Action Plans.  
The Curriculum Committee recommends submission of the plans to the NJDOE.

**III. (●) Program Review Updates:**

- Gifted & Talented
- Fine & Performing Arts
- Media Center Review for 2016-17 school year

The CC reviewed the Action Plan for the recommendations that were in both the External and Internal Reports of the Gifted & Talented Program Review. Several of the recommendations have been implemented already this year. Several of the recommendations relate to the continued need for professional development for all stakeholder groups (staff, administration and parents).

The Program Review for Fine and Performing Arts is continuing. Both the internal and external teams have been working towards draft reports. A parent survey was conducted a couple of weeks ago and a student survey is being conducted now. The Internal team is drafting recommendations in subcommittee and will review in April with the full committee. It is anticipated that the CC will review the reports in June.

Administration is recommending a program review of the Media Centers for the 2016-17 school year.

**IV. (●) Grade 8 STEM Elective**

The CC reviewed the implementation of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade STEM elective pilot this year in which students were able to take both the Computer and Design & Engineering electives. There was great interest from students and the teachers have been developing and refining the curriculum and projects for these combined courses. Due to scheduling constraints, the administration does not recommend expanding the number of sections beyond the current offering of one section, but does recommend continuing with one section at each middle school for another year.

**V. (●) Middle School Math Name Changes**

The Administration recommends renaming many of the middle school math courses to match the Standards to which the courses are aligned. The only curriculum change would be to the Algebra 1 Part 1 course. This course would be realigned to the Standards for the course and the State exam the students take.

**VI. (●) Middle School Grading Scale**

The Administration recommended aligning the middle school grading scale to the high school grading scale. This would allow for better articulation from the middle school to the high school.

**VII. (●) Professional Development Updates**

The committee reviewed the preliminary survey results from the February 8 in-service day. The staff was overwhelmingly positive in their assessment of the day.

**VIII. (●) Research Projects –**

**a. Chimaobi Amutah, Rutgers University**

*Screaming from the Sideline?: Parental Voice and Class in the Age of Accountability*

**b. Arti Joshi – The College of New Jersey**

*Research on Asian Indian Parents' beliefs about Early Childhood Education, Play and Literacy*

The CC reviewed the Superintendent's recommendation to allow these research projects to interview individuals within the district. All Institutional Review Board protocols will be followed.

**IX. (●) Strategic Plan 2016-2017**

Dr. Aderhold reviewed plans for developing a new Strategic Plan for the district during the 2016-17 school year.

**X. (\*) Administrator Contract - Merit Goal**

To recommend certifying the following:

- a) To acknowledge that Martin Smith, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction, has achieved his 2015-2016 qualitative merit goal criteria #2; and
- b) To authorize submission of the 2015-2016 goal attainment with appropriate documentation for review and approval by the executive county superintendent.

The CC recommends submission of Mr. Smith's Merit Goal to the County Superintendent.

**XI. (\*) Professional Development – Travel**

To recommend approval for up to 20 administrators and teachers to attend the New Jersey Association for Gifted Children (NJAGC) 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Friday, April 15, 2016, at a cost of \$204 per person plus mileage.

The CC recommends approval of the PD travel.

**XII. (\*) Professional Development - Consultant**

To recommend approval for COMPanion Corporation to provide approximately 2 hours of online training on Alexandria V6.22.2 software features to district media specialists in Spring, 2016, at a cost of \$225 for the first hour and \$185 for each additional hour. The CC recommends approval of the PD consultant.

**XIII. (\*) STARTALK Grant Acceptance**

To recommend acceptance of the STARTALK grant for \$89,920 for Hindi and Urdu Summer Immersion Camps for the period March 2016 through February 2017. The CC recommends acceptance of the grant.

**XIV. (\*) Northwest Evaluation Association**

To recommend entering into an agreement with Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) to supply web-based Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) math and language arts assessments for students and test administration training for staff. The cost of the materials and training through June, 2017 is approximately \$113,300. The CC discussed the use of these assessments to replace a variety of current assessments used in the district such as basic skills screening, special education goal setting and new student placement. The CC recommends purchase of the assessment.

**XV. (\*) Community Education Spring/Summer 2015 Classes and Trips**

To recommend approval of the following additional Community Education Spring and Summer 2016 Adult and Youth programs:

Asset Protection Boot Camp – New	Lose Weight through Hypnosis
BLS for Healthcare Providers	Princeton Education Network SAT Prep
First Aid & CPR	Princeton Review SAT Prep
Defensive Driving	Relaxation through Hypnosis
Financial Strategies for Successful Retirement	Safe Boating
Getting Paid to Talk	Savvy Social Security Planning
Kaplan SAT Prep	Stop Smoking with Hypnosis
Lentz & Lentz ACT/SAT Prep	Microsoft Excel for Beginners
	Microsoft Word for Beginners
	Encore Kids – Music Production

The CC recommends approval of the courses.

**XVI. (\*) Overnight Field Trips**

To recommend rescinding the following:

- District Robotics Team to the Tech Valley Regional Competition in Rensselaer, New York, from March 17, 2016, through March 19, 2016.

To recommend approval for the following:

- High School South Science Club to the National Ocean Sciences Bowl in Morehead City, North Carolina, from April 21, 2016, through April 24, 2016. The cost of the trip is paid by the National Ocean Sciences Bowl.
- High School South Science Club to the National Science Bowl in Washington, D.C., from April 28, 2016, through May 2, 2016. The cost of the trip is paid by the U.S. Department of Energy.
- Middle School and High School Future Problem Solvers to Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, from June 1, 2016, through June 5, 2016. The cost of the trip is approximately \$1,200 per student.

- Community Middle School Outdoor Education to Camp Canadensis, Canadensis Pennsylvania, from June 8, 2016, through June 10, 2016. The cost of the trip is approximately \$215 per student.
- Middle School and High School National History Day students to College Park, Maryland, from June 12, 2016, through June 16, 2016. The cost of the trip is approximately \$900 per student.
- High School South Marching Band to YMCA Fairview Lakes Band Camp, Newton, New Jersey, from August 21, 2016, through August 24, 2016. The cost of the trip is approximately \$285 per student.

The CC recommends approval of the field trips.

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 5, 2016

Future Topics

Program Review Updates

NGSS & Science Kits