

Curriculum and Instruction Committee Notes

December 9, 2016

Administration: Dr. McGarry, Gary Goldberg

Board Members: Denise Kline, Eileen Briamonte, Ana Vander Woude, Vicky Flynn

Donations:

We have two donations to approve this evening on the agenda,

1- Indian Hill School has been nominated by Holmdel Exxon to receive a \$500. Grant on Exxon Educational Alliance. This gift is to be used for the maintenance and support of Math and/or Science.

2. Holmdel Foundation for Excellence supports the creation the Music Innovation Lab at the WR Satz school. This will be a non-monetary donation no to exceed \$93,000.00

January 27th PD DAY--The planning for the Professional Development Day on January 27th is making much progress. The agenda is almost done with lots of great workshops for our staff to attend. The committee discussed the need for a PD Day for special education monitors. We will bring this topic to the Special Services Committee.

The committee discussed the grading for Language Arts Plus and Math Plus at Satz. Currently the Language Arts Plus is Pass/Fail and the Math Plus is a letter grade. The administration is working on a proposal for consistency.

There is an approval on the agenda tonight for a book to be added to the 7th grade honors English course at Satz. The book is called "Something Wicked this way comes" by Ray Bradbury.

We have some more preliminary MAP information for Grade 8 in math, because that is the grade with the most levels for students. Based on the first round of MAP assessments, we found that students who did poorly in the MAP assessment were also those students who were placed in math classes with augmented help. But, when placing students in advanced levels of the grade, the data did not show as much consistency.

For the past few months we have been discussing the math offerings in grades 5 to 8. Consideration is being given to increasing the rigor at each grade level. This may be accomplished through a combination of eliminating the lowest level of math at each grade level and increasing the frequency of small group and differentiated instruction.

As a consequence of parent feedback and the MAP data discussed earlier, a new process for identifying advanced level math placements is under development. The process may include lowering the grade threshold for applying for advanced level consideration, and identifying specific thresholds for achievement using a series of district tools. The process would reduce the number of students who take additional assessments, reduce the amount of release time needed for teachers to grade the assessments, and increase the rigor of the assessments for those who qualify to take them. However, more

feedback from teachers, parents, and the C&I Committee is needed before the process is finalized.

All principals are open to discussing the K-8 Master Schedules. Possible new master schedule priorities were discussed last month in C and I.

We discussed the revision for possible approval of the on-line course credit policy.

The Grade 7, 8 culinary program updates were discussed including budget related, teacher lesson prep and follow up lessons, as well as other activities.

Some new HS course proposals included Anatomy and Physiology, AP Computer Science Principles, Athletic Training and Sports Injury Management, Chamber Singers, Advanced Acting, Art History, Honors Literature and Film, Nutrition, Virtual Business, Introduction to International Cinema, and Advanced Culinary Arts: Gourmet, Comfort, and Luncheon Foods. Some of these will be included in the HS Program of Studies which will be on next month's agenda.

The next meeting is tentatively set for January 16th.