

Holmdel Township Board of Education
Curriculum and Instruction Committee
Meeting Notes
December 9, 2009 – 6:00PM
Central Office Conference Room

Present

Board Members: Ray Tai, Mary Hartnett, Mike Collins, Ana Vander Woude
Administrators: Barbara Duncan, Mary Beth Currie, Bill Loughran, Eric Swensen
Teacher: Harry Dangler

High School Program of Studies – Bill Loughran and Eric Swensen returned to the Committee to continue to address the Program of Studies. Much of the discussion in this session concerned clarifications and clean-up revisions. They are as follows:

- Financial Literacy & Economics must be taken by all 9th graders and this is reflected in the Business section of the Program of Studies.
- Macroeconomics and Microeconomics are semester long courses, not year-long courses.
- As a prerequisite for placement in AP Psychology, an “A” must be achieved in the US History course taken in the year immediately prior to entrance.
- Several Art courses will have new names.
- Instead of Ceramics III, there will be an Honors Sculpture class.
- Cycles B&C of Acting will be offered next year.
- Introduction to Music Theory discussed in an earlier committee report also was added to the Program of Studies.
- Basic Skills will have subheading of its own.
- Language describing the STRIVE program will be modified.

Additionally, we discussed cleaning up some of the language in the document regarding special services and Mr. Loughran is working on this in consultation with Mrs. Gill.

Senior Option – As discussed in last month’s report, prior to the 2005-2006 school year, High School seniors were allowed to take a “free” period as a senior privilege. The High School administration is recommending a return to this practice by again offering a “Senior Option” free period. The free period would be taken by seniors in lieu of an elective course that is not needed to meet state graduation requirements.

Seniors taking the “Senior Option” would have a free Period 1. Students can use the time as a study hall or to come in late at 8:13. Students who take a school bus may use the Satz bus runs to arrive for Period 2. With this option, seniors will be required to take the “free” period for the entire year and must take a standard lunch period.

The Committee supports this proposal, which requires a resolution of the full board for adoption. It will also be included in the Program of Studies as an actual course.

Summer Programs – Harry Dangler, the Director of the Summer Enrichment Program, presented the new summer brochure. The program is self-sustaining and continues to expand its course offerings. It even made a small profit last year.

This year, the mailer is a smaller quarter fold that will refer interested parties to the website materials. This will save quite a bit on mailing costs and be a more eco-friendly way of advertising our program. It also will be able to go out by early January, and should allow us to be much more effective at getting students before they have committed to other camps.

Satz Program of Studies – The Committee was provided with a draft of the Satz Program of Studies for review. We will discuss it at our next meeting.

Web Based Curriculum Supports

Understanding that in this economy, it is more and more difficult for parents to pay for outside enrichment and tutoring for their students, the administration has begun gathering resources for parents on its website. Two regular education and one special education teacher from kindergarten through sixth grade are compiling websites that support every area of the curriculum at all abilities for inclusion on the district's website.

Textbooks – The committee recommends the adoption of the following textbooks at the December 16, 2009 board of education meeting:

1. Title: Algebra and Trigonometry 4th Edition
Author: Robert Blitzer
Publisher: Prentice Hall
Date: 2010
Cost: \$98.97(per book, 160 books needed)

Title: Biology
Author; Biggs, et al
Publisher: Glencoe, McGraw Hill
Date: 2009
Cost: \$79.50(per book, 160 books needed)

Mrs. Currie informed the Committee that the Algebra book is critically necessary and must be purchased. However, although needed, depending upon funds available at budget time, she will make a decision about whether to purchase the Biology text at a later date.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 20th, 6:00PM, Central Office Conference Room.