

Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting Notes

Tuesday, May 8, 2012, 6:00 PM

Attending: Board Members - Ray Tai, Barbara Garrity, Chiung-Yin Cheng Liu
Administrators – Mary Beth Currie

Items for Discussion/Reports

1. World Language

- Mrs. Mary Beth Currie (Assistant SI for C&I) updated the committee with the World Language (WL) Programs in VS, IH and Satz. Currently VS has WL classes twice a week for 25 minutes each, IH has it once a week for 50 minutes, and Satz (43 minutes) every other day for 7th grade and everyday for 8th grade. For VS/IH, only Spanish is taught, and at Satz we have 5 languages. Due to resource limitations and based on the demand, only Spanish has in class support for kids who need special services.
- Princeton district offers multiple languages in elementary school, where WL classes are scheduled every day. This is the most comprehensive program but very expensive to implement; Holmdel won't be able to attain that in near future. Instead, we'll focus on more attainable goals, such as having WL twice a week at IH. The schedule can accommodate this change, but we'll need to add 0.5 WL teacher for it.

2. Home Schooling and After School Activity

- Following the discussion at the last board meeting, we surveyed the 22 districts in our athletic conference and found only two have policies allowing home-schooled students to participate. A survey by NJSBA shows more than 92% of the districts responding either do not allow it or are undecided. The major issue remains who will check, and how, whether the child meets the educational attainment requirements. It would be hard to implement any such policy until that issue is resolved with clear State law and regulations. Therefore, C&I recommends that we don't rush to enact a policy to allow or disallow it; we shall continue monitor it and bring it back for discussion when things change.

3. Professional Development (PD) Plan

- C&I reviewed and discussed a draft PD Plan prepared by the PD Committee Chair (a teacher). C&I made some comments and suggestions which Mary Beth will bring back to the committee. The new process requires the Plan be submitted to State for approval first before it is sent to school board for acceptance.

4. Gifted and Talented - Satz

- The G & T program is expanding into Satz (7th grade) next year (2012-13). Volunteer teachers have been identified, and have started working with the G & T Coordinator for planning and training. The program will be project based and will be embedded in heterogeneous classes of social science and sciences. The roughly 22 kids will be clustered into 2 writing lab classes of 11 students each; they will receive "pushed in" services with the G & T Specialist, Mrs. Bellis, every other week during writing lab, which is part of the common core in all subjects.

5. An LA Program similar to Math+ at Satz

- We continue to have trouble getting kids to attend the Basic Skills classes during period 0. So following the success of Math+, Satz will also offer a similar program for kids at risk in the LA area. The identified kids will be put into one Writing Lab; they will miss Life Skills in 7th grade, but can take it in the 8th grade.

Items for Approval:

Summer Reading List, to be on 5/16 board agenda for approval.

- C&I reviewed it and made some suggestions such as 1) adding a list for Pre-K, and 2) explaining the connection between summer reading and Reader's Workshop either in the cover letter or in the next issue of LA Newsletter. This would include indicating the level of each selection for informational purposes.

Items for information:

Next Curriculum Committee meeting is scheduled for June 11, 1030a-12n, Board Office at VS.

Respectfully submitted,
Ray Tai