

**Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting Notes**  
**May 22, 2013**  
**(High School Library Conference Room F)**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Attending:

Board Members: Phyllis Pascucci, Chiung-Yin Cheng Liu, Victor DeSario, Ana Vander Woude  
Administrators: Mary Beth Currie

Absent: Mike Sockol

NJHS--Update--Mr. Howard joined the committee to give an update regarding the NJHS--discrepancies between the Rubric and Application were discussed. Mr. Howard informed the committee that the advisors were meeting with the students in small groups to go over issues, concerns, and to re-explain the requirements and process. Advisors encouraged the students to reach out to them or Mr. Howard with any additional questions they may have. In addition, Mr. Howard posted a FAQ paper on the web site to clarify the requirements, and encouraged both students and parents with questions to call him. The JNHS will be re-evaluated for consistency between the application and rubric and a more informative communication process.

UPDATE ON LANGUAGE ARTS INSTRUCTION AT VILLAGE AND INDIAN HILLS SCHOOLS--Marilyn Bellis, supervisor of Humanities joined the committee to provide an update on Readers Writers Workshop--Ms. Bellis stressed that the Readers Writers Workshop is a Model for Instruction and not a Program. Within this model, instruction takes place utilizing best practices for instruction for individual, small group, whole group, and independent learning.--A program gives the impression that it must be utilized in its entirety or a one size fits all--however a model can be tailored to the unique needs of the district and its students.

Ms. Bellis also reported on student progress in independent reading levels grades K thru 6 from September thru February, in all grades students whose reading level was below grade level decreased. Important to note is the relationship between the Common Core requirements for Language Arts and the strategies and skills stressed in the Readers Writers Workshop Model--which are very closely aligned, including the skills and strategies utilized to access text with greater complexity.

Analysis of grade level Social Sciences electives was completed to determine enrollment status--and offerings for next year at the High School--the analysis indicated Psychology to have the most enrollment followed by AP Psychology, Sociology, AP Macro, and AP Micro followed by AP Government--which led the discussion to center on possibly offering regular economics courses in place of some of our electives that have minimal enrollment.

MATH SEQUENCE--INDIAN HILL SCHOOL/SATZ--Ms. Killean, Supervisor of Math and Science joined the committee to give an update on a proposed new sequence in both Indian Hill and Satz School. Ms. Killean, along with members of the faculty, conducted a very thorough analysis of the math courses sequencing and math curriculum along with a data analysis of student performance--this also led to an analysis of criteria used to evaluate students for placement in enrichment and higher level math courses. Based on the analysis of student performance Ms. Killean proposed changes to the criteria for student placement which would give more students more opportunities for placement in enrichment classes. Based on the proposed changes to the Math Sequence eventually a higher level Calculus Course would be available at the High School providing an opportunity for students who qualify to have the option to remain in district rather than seeking admittance to High Tech Schools. The committee's recommendation on the proposed Math Sequence is, that while the committee recommends a new Math Sequence and supports more opportunity for more students, a presentation should be given to the full board to allow for thoughtful discussion and questions and also to afford our parent community the opportunity to attend. In addition, the proposed new sequence may have future budgetary implications and require board approval for the appropriation of funds.

HIB Report--Mr. Swenson provided the committee with this year's report-the report will be presented on June 12 board meeting

SUMMER READING--The committee endorsed the summer reading list for all four schools

APPROVAL OF CURRICULUM GUIDES--Math-Basic Skills grade 7 and 8 and Spanish grades 4 and 5

DONATIONS FOR APPROVAL--On the Agenda for Approval

**Items for information:**

Next Curriculum Committee meeting is scheduled for: June 19, 2013, 7:00 p.m. W.R. Satz Main Office Conference Room

Respectfully submitted,  
Phyllis Pascucci