

Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting Notes

Thursday, January 22, 2015. 12:00 PM

Attending:

Board Members: Chiung-yin Liu (Chair), Joe Hammer, Denise Kline, Mike Sockol

Administrators: Barbara Duncan, Robert McGarry, Marilyn Bellis, Alicia Killean.

Items for Discussion/Updates

1. PARCC Messaging and “Opt-out”

- The district PARCC readiness presentation led by Mr. Swensen, Director of School Counseling Service, will take place at Parents Group meeting at each school. The first presentation took place at the Satz PSG meeting on January 21.
- The C & I committee suggested that Mrs. Duncan and Dr. McGarry could provide a series of “Q & A” messages regarding the PARCC exam along with the presentations to help parents and students better understand the PARCC exam and address any concerns they may have.
- The C&I committee suggested posting a list with all PARCC exam days on the district or school webpage and in school newsletters which might be helpful.
- Parents need to know that there is not an “Opt-out” policy for the PARCC exam. Since State law and regulations require all students to take State Assessment, the C&I committee suggested that administrators should help parents and students to understand and be familiar with the PARCC in a positive way, and acknowledge the impact and disadvantage if they do not take the exam.
- If parents refuse to have their children take the PARCC exam, the C& I committee agreed with administrators that those students would be placed in a library or other space to use as a reading period while the exam is implemented. The district is not required to provide an alternate activity. If students are tardy or absent from school, their tardiness or absence will be recorded.

2. Math and English Placement Criteria Revision

- The new PARCC exam will be implemented this school year and the results of the PARCC exam won't be available until October.
 - Since the district has used NJASK results for student placement decisions, there is a need to determine temporary placement criteria for Math and English classes during this transitional year.
 - The notification letters and criteria will be sent to students and parents.
 - Use Q &A messages to explain the criteria if needed.
- a. Mathematics** (Mrs. Killean, Math and Science Supervisor)
- Mrs. Killean originally proposed temporary placement criteria to the C&I committee which included four components: Final Grade, score of NJASK 2014, Problem Solving Sample and a Standards Based Assessment.

- The C&I committee suggested to remove the score of 2014 NJASK from the criteria during the transition year.
- The C&I committee suggested to add more points for final grades this year only.
- The Standards Based Assessment will be created by our district math teachers and the math and science department.
- The C&I committee recommends to the Board that the temporary criteria for math placement include three components—Final Grade, Problem Solving, and the District CCSS Standards Based Assessment.
- Mrs. Killean will provide an informational page describing the revised criteria.

b. English (Mrs. Bellis—Humanities Supervisor)

- Mrs. Bellis proposed temporary placement criteria which included three components: Final Grade, score from the Critical Reading and Writing Task, and two Standardized Assessments (NJASK 2014 and a CCSS Standards Based Assessment).
- Mrs. Bellis indicated that the district currently used two years of NJASK scores for placement.
- Mrs. Bellis will use State Endorsed Assessment material from another Common Core State to replace one year of NJASK.
- The C&I committee accepted Mrs. Bellis’ proposal and recommends this to the Board.

3. Updates on District Goals

- a. Completing the District’s Implementation of the Common Core Standards to Promote College and Career Readiness**
- Common Core Implementation Team meeting – conducting a review of all Implementation Rubrics.
(a copy was included in the C&I agenda packet sent to all board members)
 - Staff and Administrators will receive a survey regarding the district’s implementation.
- b. Defining Technology’s Role in the 21st Century Classroom.**
- Consideration of Grades 2&3 Chrome Book Initiative with the support from HFEE to help create 21st Century learning opportunities for all students in these grades.
- c. Refining the Scope of the District’s STEM Offerings and Preparing for the Implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards, K-12**
- Dr. McGarry provided the committee with an Educational Leadership article regarding “STEM.”
(a copy was included in the C&I agenda packet sent to all board members)
 - The Science Department will conduct a “Next Generation Science Standards” related Book Study with Supervisor, Mrs. Killean.
- d. Assessing the Allocation and Utilization of Instructional Time Across the Content Areas**

A presentation of HHS Proposed Rotation Schedule was scheduled on 1/28.
(Postponed)

- e. **Evaluating the Visual and Performing Arts Program, K-12**
 - i. Arts-ticulation Days
 - Performing Arts (Music and Theatre) will meet on February 2nd
 - Visual Arts will meet on January 30th
 - ii. Students, parents and teachers will receive a survey regarding the District Visual and Performing Arts programs in March which happens to be Music in Our Schools Month and Youth Art Month.

Items for Discussion and Board Approval

1. Social Studies Resources – classroom sets for Grades 4-6.
2. Leveled Literacy Intervention Systems (Levels L-Q)- for Grade 3-5 ACHIVE program.
3. Donations:
 - a. HFEE - \$60,000 non-monetary donation– in supporting 1:1 Google Chrome books Initiative in Village School.
 - b. Vitaly and Elena Kuleshov - \$500 to the traveling expense for the Robotics Team of Technology Student Association.
 - c. The Hospital for Special Surgery and the USA Football Association – \$1,000 non-monetary donation for the purchase of football equipment.

Items for the Good of the Order

1. Policies to review for next meeting.—Ms. Peart will send to the committee for review.

Next Meeting Date: TBA

Sincerely Submitted,
Chiung-yin Cheng Liu, Chair