

Notes Curriculum and Instruction Committee
August 8, 2007

Present: Barbara Garrity, Mary Hartnett, Karen Strickland, Mary Beth Currie, Barbara Duncan, Art Albrizio, by telephone: Ray Tai

1. SAT/PSAT Preparation: Teachers in the district have traditionally offered courses using school facilities at no charge, getting paid directly by parents (\$350 for 6 sessions) Art noticed that many students were going to Princeton Review for a Prep class. He reached out to Princeton Review who offered to teach a course at the high school at a reduced cost (\$799 instead of \$1200 for 12 sessions)) The two courses are significantly different (see attachment) so we thought both courses could be offered and we would monitor enrollment and impact on the district and revisit next year. A student performing well on tests reflects well on the district so we thought waiving facility use fee for this purpose would be advantageous to the district. We are going to ask for data from both sets of providers on number of students taking tests and their scores.
2. Village School Report Cards: A committee of teachers revised the report cards. The committee is looking at them and expected to give feedback at the next meeting.
3. Competitions - Computer Science. Our students attend many academic competitions for which the District pays the fees and transportation. These costs can be high—i.e. \$6000 (out of an \$8000 budget) for a computer science student to attend the national championship competition. Since these students are representing our school district, we felt the district should provide the funds to support the attendance and we recommend to Budget and Finance to increase the funds to insure there is money for students who achieve higher levels in the academic areas to attend the competitions. One comment was to compare the costs of these academic competitions to costs of sporting competitions. There should be equity.
4. Cell Phone Use: We are revising the policy. Current thinking is that there should be no cell phone use by students or faculty during school hours of 7:30 to 1:59. There was much discussion about iPod use and Art said he felt comfortable allowing students to use them only during their lunch periods to listen to music. There will be graduated consequences for abuses: 1. teacher confiscates telephone and administrators return with a detention. 2. Teacher confiscates and parents must retrieve phone. 3. Teacher confiscates and student stays for in school suspension. Parent education is also required. They cannot expect to reach their children during the day on the phone. For emergencies, they need to call the office where employees can contact the students.
5. Calculations of GPA for Valedictorian. Since we have number grades there was discussion about using the number grades to determine valedictorian. There was

strong feeling that valedictorian meant only one and so all attempts should be made to fairly determine who is the one highest achieving student. Current policy is that the standard will be advertised in the school calendar (which is going to be done) and that student grades are compared based on the same seven courses. There is going to be confirmation about how electives are included. This led to discussion of our grading policy and if it continues to meet our needs.

6. Mary Beth wants to revisit the curriculum revision cycle. She feels there should be more analysis of how the current curriculum is working and revise from that point. On our agenda were 10 guides that had been rewritten over the summer.
7. Mary Beth distributed testing dates of required state testing (see attached)

Submitted by Karen Strickland
August 13, 2007