

Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting Notes

Wednesday, April 15, 2009, 5:30 PM

Attending: Board Members - Ray Tai, Barbara Garrity,
Administrators - Mary Beth Currie
Absent: Mary Hartnett, Jerry Burke

Computer Science Team:

Our Computer Science Team will travel to Huntsville, Alabama for the National Finals in this June. Our policy is to support our teams if they reach the national level. The total cost of this trip is about \$6500, which has been budgeted. So congratulations and good luck!

Textbook List and Curriculum Guide List:

The committee reviewed the textbook list and the curriculum guide list and recommended them to be approved by the whole board at 4/29 re-organization meeting.

Course Name Changes/Corrections:

Chinese 4 becomes Honors Chinese 4
Ceramics becomes Ceramics I
Advanced Ceramics becomes Ceramics II
Honors Italian 5 becomes Honors Advanced Italian Seminar

Items for Approval:

2 generous donations from HYAA are approved and will be on the next board agenda.

C&I Annual Summary:

High Priority:

- World Language Program – revamped for Satz, look into HS curriculum and K-6 program next year
- Gift & Talented – start implementation this year at 3rd grade, expanding into 4th grade next year.
- Technology – assessment via Tech Step, continue to enhance and improve in many areas
- Character Education – progress presentation scheduled for Board Meeting in May
- Differentiated Instruction – presentation schedule for 4/22 board meeting (and great progress in G & T)
- HS Programming
 - o Fine and Performing Arts Program – Honors Music in 09-10, and Honors Arts in 10-11
 - o HS Courses Acceleration/Online Courses – will look into this in the future
 - o HS Open House & Orientation – Open House for 8th graders has been moved up to January and now coincides with the open houses held by High Tech and the other vocational schools, so parents and students can make a more fully informed choice of high school programs; and a new comprehensive 4-hour orientation was conducted for incoming freshmen on their first school day
 - o Others - Numerical to letter grade translation, Valedictorian & Salutatorian Calculation, and Lunch Exemption guidelines have been fine-tuned or clarified.
- QSAC/5-year Curriculum Plan – on-going, focusing on what is broken first (e.g., outdated curricula)
- Data Analysis to Drive C&I – Learnia, NJASK and other tests are being used to identify target areas. Note that the state is seeking a closer tie between data on student performance and professional development offered.

Medium Priority (continue to monitor & seek opportunity for improvement this year or in the long run):

- Class Grouping – it may be time for another review next year. (This is a question of meeting students' social/emotional needs as they transition from grade to grade, not ability grouping.)
- Summer Reading – Susan is working on it for this summer; for next year, will present it to the board in March
- Satz/HS Program of Study (need to allow enough time for review & input) – done
- Summer Enrichment Program – totally in-house now, continue to improve and thrive

Just Monitor (have been addressed in recent years, no major changes planned this year):

- AP Course Criteria
- Honors Course Criteria
- Ranking/Valedictorian calculation (review the current policy/regulations, and decide if there's any need for a change) – see HS Programming

Other significant C&I Work:

- Administrators' Professional Development Initiative – first time in many years.
- Preschool program – will establish an in-house program starting 09-10

Next Meeting: 5:30pm, 5/20/2009, Central Office Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Ray Tai