

# Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting Notes

Wednesday, August 20, 2008, 5:30 PM

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

## **Raising the State Proficiency Standards:**

The State has raised the proficiency standards for Grades 5-8 as a result of the standard setting project for NJ ASK 5, 6, 7, and 8. Ms. Currie and Mrs. Duncan participated in a conference call with the State Commissioner on this topic. The new standards will be applied to the 07-08 tests, which were conducted before the new standards were announced. Data will be available in September, and will need to be re-evaluated. It's not clear that if the raw score will be re-casted. Note that the raw score has been used as part of the placement criteria – this will need to be re-evaluated, and also Learnia should be the way to go.

## **Establish Minimum Class Size for Regular Education Students at the High School:**

Ms. Currie reported that as the students' interests shift, some classes may have very low enrollment, and with limited resources, it is not fiscally prudent to offer those classes. For instance, AP Government only has 8 students this year, and we'll still offer it. However, going forward, the committee has a consensus of following past practice of setting a minimum cap of 10 students for a class to be offered. As a related note: the Honors Advanced Research will be offered this year – we have 13 students enrolled, and the class will be led by Dr. Blaha.

## **The Class of 2008 – Where Are They Headed?**

The college list of where our 2008 class will attend was shared with the committee. Again, it's an impressive list. We are proud of all of them, and wish them good luck in their new adventures. The committee suggested that the list be posted on the school web site.

## **Mentor Plan Approved by the State:**

The Mentoring Plan that the board accepted at last board meeting has been approved by the State on August 15! An annual report on progress and effectiveness is now required.

## **HS Transition Program:**

A new comprehensive 4-hour orientation will be conducted for incoming freshmen on their first school day as part of a new Transitions program. A letter has been sent to home on 8/1.

## **Update on Gifted & Talented Program:**

16 students have been identified using a combination of the CTP4, the Naglieri Test of Non-Verbal Ability, Teacher Recommendation, and Parent Inventory. The students will be formed into 3 clusters. To facilitate effective differentiated instruction, each class will have a combination of G & T, Regular and Basic Skills students, or a combination of Regular, Basic Skill, and Special Ed students.

## **Items for Approval:**

The following have been reviewed and approved, see C&I agenda for more details. These will be on next board meeting agenda.

- Curriculum Guide: Spanish I
- Generous donations from Lowes

Note that only one curriculum is ready for approval since Ms. Currie and the supervisors have carefully reviewed each curriculum, and have sent some back to ensure completeness and quality. For example, a curriculum guide without properly addressing technology infusion won't pass their review.

## **Items for Future Discussion:**

The following have been raised at the last board retreat that we need to discuss in future meetings.

- Basic Skill Program – possibly start looking into it this year, and be a major goal next year
- Teaming Program assessment.

**Next Meeting:** 5:30pm, 9/17/08, Central Office Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ray Tai