

## **Curriculum Committee Minutes**

December 22, 2014

Attending: Deirdre d'Albertis, Laura Schulkind, Rick Walker, Joe Phelan, Marvin Kreps

### **High School English Curriculum**

Based on a question raised at the Board's recent Coffee Hour, the committee took up the discussion of the 10<sup>th</sup> grade English reading list. The original question raised concerned the District's values around teaching issues of diversity and gender. The parent used the reading list as an example of the exclusive use of male authors and wonders why a more diverse set of voices is not currently used.

Marvin outlined the High School English course offerings for 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grades (World Literature, British Literature and American Literature respectively) and stressed that curriculum documents and reading lists are in no way a "complete picture" of what happens inside a classroom. Given the reading list's classic nature, it may seem that women's voices are not discussed or explored in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade course, however this could not be further from the truth. Students are challenged to explore issues of inequality and gender bias through various texts. The choice of author should not be construed as more important than the content of the literature and how that content addresses the larger issues students experience today.

Marvin further explained the English Department's work in addressing the need to "update" the current curriculum. Our teachers are content experts and are working with the consultant to provide instruction that not only embraces many voices through literature but meets the standards of the Common Core. When the curriculum is approved, it will surely be shared with the community.

### **CLS Curriculum Work**

Unfortunately, approval of the Elementary Curriculum documents has been delayed. It's most important to get these documents right and insure that the teachers are confident that each element throughout the units fulfill not only the requirements of the Common Core but Rhinebeck's high standards. The faculty continues to grapple with integrating the units of study across subject areas (Science, Social Studies and ELA) to meet the non-fiction text standard. Marvin received revisions on the documents prior to the holiday break and is hoping to meet with the consultant at the end of January to finish up the last details.

### **BMS/RHS Curriculum Work**

The Middle School Consultant will be on-site in January. The teachers are working on finalizing the structure of the work and continue to make progress. The High School is still in process.

### **Revised Social Studies Standards**

The State has issued the revisions to the K-12 Social Studies curriculum. High School Global courses will be affected, but the requirement for graduation will continue to include Global I & II course work. The Regents testing will only include material from 1750 to the present and should be ready to administer in either Spring 2016 or 2017. Guidance material has been provided by the State and testing maps will be delivered once developed. There has been no discussion regarding changes to the AP test.

Most important to note, the state has moved units and topics across grade levels, so we will need to spend time reviewing the K-5 Social Studies coursework in order to better prepare students for the middle and high school courses.

### **Revised Science Standards**

The Next Generation Science standards have been approved by NYS but will be adapted to “NY-ize” the material. These new standards will have a major impact on Science education K-12. Marvin will report further as he receives more information.

### **Foreign Language**

Marvin recently met with the Language Department for discussions of course alignment through middle and high school. The faculty agrees that the courses should provide more opportunity for students to extend their exposure to language courses for a longer period of time through their high school career while continuing to provide some level of differentiation.

The challenge is to review what is currently offered starting in Middle School to understand how to best meet the needs of more students. Marvin is keen to engage a language education consultant to help with this exploration.

### **Commissioner’s Regulation Part 154 - Services for English Language Learners**

The State has issued new regulations regarding assessment requirements for ELL students. The new program may have tremendous impact on the service model we currently use. Currently, we have 1 ELL teacher servicing our K-12 population. She is also a reading specialist at CLS. If the state locks us in to some of the new requirements, it will directly affect reading AIS at CLS.

Marvin is currently working through the material to determine how much flexibility we have. Our ELL population can’t justify some of the expense associated with the changes being suggested, and that cohort shifts dramatically from year to year. It is likely that whatever we have to do will have dramatic budget implications.

Some questions to consider:

Will a bi-lingual program be required?

How will ELL students with special education needs be affected?

How will the regulations affect ELA instruction?

### **January 27, 2015 Agenda**

Technology Plan and Integration: Steve Jensen will be invited to join the discussions.

### **Yearlong Agenda**

- Collaboration and Strategic Planning for program growth (NYSSBA Conference)
- Ric Campbell (Extended Response for Science & Math) Grant - how will this work become practice, not parallel project?
- Curriculum Governance Council - framework and implementation
- Comprehensive Health Plan - Health, Wellness, PE curriculum review
- New Curricula Review - K-12
- Instructional Technology Plan - digital learning platforms and plan for what “technology instruction” looks like going forward (Dec/Jan meeting)
- Social Studies framework
- Next Gen Science Standards
- Potential ELA adjustments

Submitted by: Laura Schulkind