

## Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2015

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

### **BMS Computer Lab**

Marvin re-confirmed the goal of having each grade level (6-8) taught skills that are being used in their core courses while leveling the field of knowledge our students have coming into the Middle School. Ultimately, the BMS computer lab will continue to build on skills being taught at CLS.

The CELT audit informed some of the choices for Curriculum decisions by using the ISTE standards (<http://www.iste.org/standards/standards-old>). The Rhinebeck High School faculty are being consulted to insure that their needs will be met once the middle school students reach the high school level.

### Overview of Proposed Middle School Curriculum:

- *Digital Citizenship* - a Rhinebeck requirement for internet safety. This unit will focus on appropriate, responsible technology use.
- *Programming* - students will gain a working knowledge of how programming works through logical, sequential thinking. "Tynker" has been identified as the best tool for a beginning programming strand. We will pilot Tynker to see if it works for our needs and will include different levels in grades 6-8 as a unit of study. Those who have an affinity for programming will be able to "self-pace" through this program while the teacher will have a full dashboard to set individual goals for each student and be able to perform group work with the whole class.
- *Productivity/Computer Skills* - the MS Office platform is used in District. The MS IT Academy will be used as the framework for these units. Students are able to self-pace while teachers set goals for the individual students as well as the whole class.
- *Multi-disciplinary integration with core subjects* - grade-level content teachers have input about what they are doing in their classrooms and what they would like to see in support of their class projects. It is understood that it will take 2 instructional cycles to get this working just right.

An outside consultant will be hired to work with the teachers to develop a "Rhinebeck" curriculum and PD program. Marvin has identified 2 potential consultants and will determine who best fits our needs and schedule.

Marvin is developing a more formal grant to the Rhinebeck Science Foundation for their approval. Curriculum and professional development will happen over the summer for a September launch.

### **CLS Curriculum Documents**

Marvin shared one unit from each of the 6 elementary grades with the committee to begin discussions of the "penultimate" version of the elementary curriculum. He reviewed general guidelines for reading the documents and the committee discussed how best to review the documents in their entirety. It was decided that the committee would be given the complete curriculum as it stands now for review and make recommendation to the full board. However, Marvin is looking into ways the digital copies of the full curriculum can be accessed by individual BoE members as desired. Once the documents have been reviewed and approved by the Board, snapshots for each grade level will be posted to the District website for public use.

What is most important to reiterate is that these curriculum documents are NOT off-the-shelf lesson plans from EngageNY. The curriculum work that has been undertaken is mapped to the state standards but has been made appropriate for our students and meaningful for our community. The course work is certainly more rigorous but is developmentally appropriate. There will be students who struggle with the increased

rigor, but we are learning that kids can learn more than previously believed. It is our job to make sure that we allow them to reach their full potential through the delivery of appropriate course work.

**May 26, 2015 Agenda**

Review CLS Curriculum documents in-depth

Respectfully submitted by: Laura Schulkind