

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MINUTES
June 29, 2016

Attendance: Laura Schulkind, Deirdre d'Albertis, Joe Phelan, Marvin Kreps.

BMS Innovation in Technology Explorations Update:

Marvin shared with members of the committee a revised Project Charter document as well as a draft of the Curriculum Mapping completed to date. He reminded us that this has been a very large project which has adhered to an aggressive timeline. As late as fall 2014 there was still discussion of pulling out the middle school lab and approaching technology instruction as integrated across the curriculum. Teachers at BMS had grave concerns about the lack of comprehensive preparation of incoming 6th graders, however, and it was determined that a lab was still very much in demand at the middle school level. Joe noted that the lab functions quite differently at CLS than it does in the middle school. BMS has and continues to offer "stand-alone" computer courses. Joe and Marvin reiterated the fact that context is everything with technology curriculum and facilities. Different needs exist in different age groups and in different buildings.

Also important to remember: funding from RSF was available to the district for this ambitious project late in July of 2015. Not surprisingly, as of the fall of 2015 the lab itself was still under construction. Curriculum had to be developed very quickly. Marvin acknowledges that there have been set-backs on both the physical plant and curriculum fronts during the 2015-16 school year. Even so, he assured us that the project is on track: "we expect to get where we want to be within our timeline." Consultant Laurie Keating has been working with faculty in the middle school to develop a complete 6-8 curriculum. By the third week of August, Marvin expects to see that work of rebuilding the curriculum come to fruition. So too, he noted, children moving up from grade 5 to 6 will soon be arriving with a more uniform set of skills thanks to the work being done at Chancellor. Laurie Keating is consulting with Alison Vaccarino at CLS this summer, reviewing K-5 instruction with an eye towards ISTE standards being fully integrated into the elementary school curriculum. Work with individual teachers is also underway at CLS.

As noted in earlier discussions, MAP testing disrupted several weeks of activity in the BMS lab at both the beginning and the end of the school year. There are plans to remove (and perhaps also completely to rethink the format of) such testing from that environment moving forward so as to minimize impact on delivery of the curriculum to our students.

Overall, Marvin concluded, today there is better programming in the middle school, better use of productivity software, and better developed units on digital citizenship. The technology curriculum is not yet at the "enterprise level" that Marvin hopes and expects to see in our district. Even so, the promises and commitments made in 2015 are very real and remain unchanged. Rhinebeck is committed to transparency and stakeholder input: the documents shared with us today are consistent with this approach. Marvin expects to discuss the materials distributed at today's meeting with the committee at our next meeting. The ultimate goal is to bring a final version to the full board at the beginning of the 2016-17 school year.

Deirdre and Laura spoke to the importance of communicating these important developments to our community. We want to celebrate the hard work of our teachers and administrators as well as to honor

the substantial support of the RSF. Marvin observed that there will be ample opportunity for a web presence even as we continue to invest in deepening engagement with these exciting new resources. Ongoing professional development is to be expected.

State Standards Redux

Marvin answered questions about the revised standards in Math, ELA and Social Studies: SED has been gathering feedback from practitioners in the field. Locally, there is robust discussion amongst the professional faculty of how to revise the elementary school math curriculum in light of such revisions with an anticipated move away from Everyday Math.

Agenda: updates on lab curriculum from Marvin and updates from SED's standards review.

Next Meeting: date to be determined once new committee is formed

Respectfully submitted,

Deirdre d'Albertis