

Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2016

Attendees: Deirdre Burns, Deirdre d'Albertis, Laura Schulkind, Joe Phelan, Marvin Kreps

Yearly agenda:

The committee began its first meeting by discussing the agenda for the year. Topics will include a review of summer curriculum work, updates on the review of the CLS Math program, Health Curriculum, BMS Tech Lab curriculum development, K-12 Technology integration as outlined by our Board goal, continued discussions of the CDEP process as it relates to Curriculum, the District's philosophy re: Gifted & Talented programs and an exploration of research-based approaches to Kindergarten readiness. Should the District consider a change in the birth date cut-off for entry into Kindergarten?

Summer work:

Marvin provided a brief update of summer development work. His office continues to compile the materials produced by each department and/or grade level and will be able to provide a more complete update at a future meeting.

In general, the RHS English Department completed their work on the grades 9-11 curriculum. The RHS Social Studies Department worked through a number of topics and are compiling the information for Marvin's review. The RHS Math department continued refining the modules provided by engageNY and memorializing their work in a curriculum document based on Rhinebeck's standards.

We were reminded that the State Ed Department recently released recommended changes to the state's Math and ELA standards which are out for review and comment. Updates on potential changes will be addressed as necessary.

CLS Health Curriculum:

For the 2016-17 school year, Brett King is forging a relationship with the Center for Prevention of Child Abuse, a Dutchess County agency working in 11 of 13 schools in the county - Rhinebeck will be the 12th. The Center will work with teachers and students to provide appropriate lessons by age and grade level at no cost to the District. This opportunity is in its infancy and much remains to be planned around timing, communications with parents and working with teachers. The committee has asked to review the Center's lessons for a better understanding of the range of topics covered.

The discussion turned to the approach taken at BMS and RHS around child abuse prevention. Marvin explained that his curriculum review last year demonstrated that these topics were explicitly covered in secondary health classes. But the committee wondered if there was more we could do to support students to understand these issues? Are there best practices for managing these topics at the secondary level? Does the Center have appropriate secondary level material the committee could review? More discussion on these topics are needed.

CDEP Plan:

Deirdre Burns hoped to clarify our discussions at the most recent Board meeting around why a motion was being put forth to approve the working document that is the 2016-17 CDEP plan. Joe explained his desire to send a clear message to the CDEP committee and to the faculty that the work thus far was a good framework for developing pathways to reach the Achievement, Social Emotional and Professional Development goals outlined in the plan. The Board-approved M-V-CV document was reviewed in relation to the language of these goals.

It is important to note that, ultimately, the 5-year CDEP plan, once approved, will be used throughout the District as an operational blueprint for what we stand for, the work to be done to achieve our goals for each student and how we should budget to meet the goals we set for ourselves.

The committee engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding the Achievement Goal. Without the benefit of participation at the CDEP meetings or in the faculty discussions, the language of the goal seemed too cold and read to some as though the District cared only about standardized testing data. The hope was that the language would reflect the District's belief that our students are complex beings who achieve at different levels and should explicitly state our wish to inspire all children to achieve their greatest potential. Board feedback will be presented at the next CDEP meeting for consideration.

October Agenda:

- Steve Jensen will be invited to begin discussions re: K-12 Tech Integration goal
- BMS Tech Lab curriculum development & PD
- continued discussions re: CLS Health Curriculum & secondary wellness issues

Future Agenda Items:

- Update on summer curriculum work
- Kindergarten entry dates
- Gifted & Talented programs
- CDEP as it relates to Curriculum
- additional items as they arise

Respectfully submitted by Laura Schulkind