

## **Curriculum Committee Meeting**

November 14, 2016

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

### **ELA Curriculum - Grades 9-12**

After developing the new ELA curriculum over the summer of 2015, the RHS English department “test drove” their work during the 2015-16 school year. Adjustments were made over the summer, and the final documents provided to the committee and the full Board for review. The committee wishes to thank Marvin’s office and the English faculty for developing a thoughtful, creative and innovative course of study while maintaining some of the strengths of the previous curriculum.

Inherent in the curricula is the allowance for creativity and flexibility to address and meet the needs of each class based on the diverse interests of the student population. Based on these documents, both AIS and Special Education teachers will be able to work toward the standards embedded in the curriculum while providing necessary supports to assist our students in becoming successful learners. So too, more advanced students will dive deeper into given topics and use additional texts to support the lessons.

The question of diversity of text was raised. Marvin explained the process of addressing the skills and standards at each grade level and coupling those with appropriate and diverse texts. Indeed, in some cases, song lyrics, poetry, news articles, opinion pieces and classic pieces of literature are used to enhance the student’s experience of the lessons being taught. Encouraging use of gender, ethnic and political diversity provides multiple lenses through which to examine a given topic. As the faculty works through and adjusts these lessons over the coming years, they will continue to provide appropriate access points for students. Discussions around diversity of voice and opinion will be wholly supported.

### **Technology Curriculum**

Marvin provided what he hopes to be the penultimate version of the BMS Computer Lab Curriculum for the committee’s review. A complete copy will be provided to the full Board as an addendum to the November 22 meeting packet. It is Marvin’s hope that the full Board will “interrogate” this document fully and pose questions for review so as to set clear expectations for the Administrators and staff around technology integration and education. This is a document that embeds the International Society for Technology Education (ISTE) Standards as well as the national K-12 Computer Science Standards in addressing the skills that students should have at each grade level to prepare them for their post educational pursuits. It takes into account the introduction, development and mastery of skills at each level as it is understood that students progress at different rates.

The first part of the document (pg 4-31) was drafted based on the ISTE and Computer Science standards and “Rhinebeck-ized” with input from Laurie Keating (Rhinebeck’s CELT consultant), Marvin, Steve Jensen, John Kemnitzer and the teachers. The balance of the document is the 6-8th grade computer curriculum developed by the teachers in conjunction with Laurie Keating and approved by Marvin, Steve and John. Though the document was developed specifically for the 6th-8th curriculum, it is understood that the skills identified will need to be built out at CLS to prepare students for entry into Middle School and at RHS to continue enhancing the student experience. An important take-away is that technology education is being taught as a series of skills used to support students and teachers across curricula in the District. This document also provides the framework for analyzing the Board’s technology integration goal.

Discussion turned to appropriate ways of communicating these standards across all grade levels. Perhaps the February Superintendent Conference Day, earmarked for technology development, would be the appropriate time to engage the staff and set expectations for how to meet technology standards while

integrating the use of the hardware and software in their classrooms and libraries. The committee is aware of the disparity of access to technology at students' homes and wonders about ways to provide necessary support at both campuses. Joe acknowledged that, by creating this document, we have reached a turning point for the District and will have much work to do to build supports around instruction and deployment. Marvin pointed out that this document is an "itinerary, not a diary," and allows us to propel the District forward in a thoughtful and consistent way. Creating the 6th-8th curriculum within a K-12 skills context allows for lesson planning across all grade levels to be meaningful.

It is the expectation of the committee to query the document with our colleagues at the November 22 Board meeting after which we will continue discussions at our upcoming November 28 committee meeting. The hope is to approve the curriculum quickly so as not to lose any momentum toward implementation.

**Next Meeting Agenda: 11/28/16**

- Review BMS Technology Lab Curriculum

**Future Agenda Items:**

- Steve Jensen will be invited to begin discussions re: K-12 Tech Integration goal
- BMS Tech Lab curriculum & PD (as necessary)
- continued discussions re: CLS Health Curriculum & secondary wellness issues
- Update on summer curriculum work (Social Studies, CLS Math review)
- Kindergarten entry dates
- Gifted & Talented programs
- CDEP as it relates to Curriculum