

## Curriculum Committee Minutes

March 27, 2017

Present: Deirdre Burns, Deirdre d'Albertis, Laura Schulkind; Marvin Kreps, Joe Phelan.

The committee discussed the possible impact of proposed budget cuts on the academic program, following Saturday's Budget Workshop.

Different approaches to staffing and curricular offerings were considered in relation to the rather opaque certification requirements of NYSED.

Marvin spoke to the very real constraints of moving fairly recently to a full inclusion model in high school instruction, particularly now that a much more rigorous curriculum is in place. If we decrease human resources even as we drive up standards something is bound to give. Increasing class size could have disastrous implications for our students: so too, our students come to us with more pressing needs (social, emotional, developmental) than ever. Individualized attention must inevitably be sacrificed if we are too relentlessly concerned with maximizing class size, in other words.

The committee realizes that the board's challenge is to reimagine our program in response to the pressure of downward trending enrollment and limited capacity to raise funds due to the tax levy cap. Apparently cost-neutral solutions such as alternating course offerings in fact places a heavy burden on Guidance to reorganize and justify the master schedule. More people end up being unhappy with that master schedule as the number of "singleton" courses goes up. The complexity of planning, of staffing, and of supporting our curriculum (with the very important help of aids and teaching assistants) is hard to overstate.

The group concluded with a plan to meet (also as members of the Communications Committee) in one week's time on Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8 AM in the District Offices.

Respectfully submitted,

Deirdre d'Albertis