

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 8, 2017

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

BMS Technology Curriculum Update:

Marvin reported on the status of the middle school technology curriculum, reminding us of the work done since last summer to bring Bulkeley's program in alignment with ISTE and Comp Sci standards. In consultation with consultant Laurie Keating, Marvin has worked with faculty responsible for grades 6-8 to implement a plan that reflects their considered response to input on the planning process gathered from both Marvin's office and the Board early in the year. However, additional feedback still is needed regarding grades 6-7, while grade 8 seems fairly close to being ready. The mechanics of revision itself should not be too time-consuming, although he is not confident that the document as a whole will be ready by the end of the current school year.

CDEP Planning:

Marvin expects to share with this committee CDEP documents for review prior to our next meeting on May 22. All agreed that this is heartening news and look forward to the conversation.

"Next Gen" Science Standards:

Marvin described the Science 21 program (redesigned science modules and "science in a box" program) developed by Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES currently developed through grade 3. Recently, David Woulfin presented on the standards to his colleagues at CLS and shared the modules developed for the lab in the elementary school. Marvin outlined the challenges for middle and especially high school science teachers when it comes to interpreting the current climate/action plan coming out of Albany. It is better to "sing a little behind the music" rather than over-commit early (and need consequently radically to correct course): SED is not infrequently inclined to reverse direction or to revise its recommendations, potentially leaving districts at a loss with curricula in place that is no longer aligned with standards or testing protocols. Marvin will work closely with science faculty to chart this ever-shifting terrain. Even though the standards themselves are clear, a great deal of judgment is required to think through how course and syllabus design should be impacted in response to the standards. This is an "evolutionary process." Summer development projects proposed by faculty in the sciences have been incorporating the new standards, it is important to note.

Looking Forward:

Members of the committee talked about how long term planning can and should intersect with curricular decisions over the coming years. Marvin cautioned that any abrupt change to curriculum in such key areas as ELA at the middle or high school level could have immediate negative impact on at least a third or more of our students. It deserves to be reiterated: curricular change must be carefully planned and deliberately implemented over the span of several years.

Finally, the group considered whether or not this is an opportune time to review the College and Careers curriculum.

Next Meeting:

May 22, 2017 at 8 AM in District Offices.

Respectfully submitted,

Deirdre d'Albertis