

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MINUTES
June 26, 2017

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

The committee briefly discussed this year's Regents examinations. Marvin provided context for how curriculum design impacts student achievement at the high school level.

Technology Curriculum

Marvin updated members of the group on progress with the Technology curriculum at the middle school. He has recently received the final few teaching units from faculty. He has forwarded them to Laurie Keating, our consultant, and she has sent him her recommendations. He expects to bring the revised materials to the Board for approval by the start of school in September after a summer review and feedback by the newly-constituted Curriculum Committee. We spoke with Joe and Marvin's about their process and approach for supporting summer curriculum work in Rhinebeck.

Next Gen Standards

SED continues its ongoing revision of new standards for Math, ELA, Social Studies, Science, and the Arts. State assessments are scheduled to be designed to come through the pipeline by 2020. Experts in the field recommend working carefully through these proposed changes. It is not advisable for districts to "get out ahead" of the standards by investing in new curriculum, etc. ESSA (federal level legislation) will interface with New York State educational planning in ways we cannot as yet predict. Based upon prior experience, faculty members in Rhinebeck are taking a cautious and somewhat skeptical approach to proposed changes. One positive development is the new Commissioner's attention to teacher involvement in test construction (as opposed to seeing this as the province of big companies). We have "a few years of runway," in other words, before major curricular revision is introduced. Remaining true to Rhinebeck's own mission, vision, and core values will continue to guide the work of CDEP and the district as a whole.

Special Thanks

All present expressed their gratitude to Deirdre Burns for her committed and deeply principled work over the years to support curricular design and development at RCSD.

Respectfully submitted,

Deirdre d'Albertis