

## Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes September 14, 2017

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

### **Curriculum and Long Range Planning**

The committee discussed the potential for holding a Board Workshop centered around curriculum planning for the future. This was an idea that was raised during the budget cycle last year and one worth considering if the full Board is willing to participate. In essence, we need to fully understand what courses we offer and how or why we may need to restructure or modify certain courses to address declining enrollment. As part of these discussions, we will explore State requirements, Rhinebeck requirements and the extra courses we offer. Most importantly, we must remain mindful of the implications of any changes for our students.

Deirdre updated Marvin on the Long Range Planning Committee's discussions with Emily Davison around the desire for general education teachers to have a better understanding of the needs of our special education students. Joe pointed out that the teacher prep colleges are encouraging elementary teachers to work toward dual certification, but there is no move in that direction for secondary, specialized teachers.

The committee asked Marvin to research and provide information regarding online or "machine learning." What are the best practices currently? What are the next practices? Are there successful models we can look to, and might it be appropriate in Rhinebeck? How can we meet the needs of varied student abilities through technology? Are there subgroups of kids who would benefit especially in the face of declining enrollment? Marvin pointed out that the nature of tech learning is "fluid" as the technology changes so rapidly. Once a decision has been made, hardware/software purchased and professional development completed, the technology, in many cases, has been replaced by something new. He also advised that professional contracts come into play when discussing online course work. What is clear is that, at this moment, we need to explore all the possibilities and determine what, if anything, fits in Rhinebeck. Jaclyn pointed out that most DCC students come unprepared to grapple with the required use of technology in their classes. We must remain mindful that our job is to do what's right for kids and prepare them appropriately for their next steps. This discussion also feeds into the Board's Technology goal so will need to be explored in some depth.

Deirdre asked that Marvin help us better understand the possibilities of shared staff particularly as vacancies arise and the district considers replacements/new hires? Are there ways to maintain programs by sharing staff between districts, and are there any discussions among our neighbors about embarking on such a course of action?

To be sure, there are many undefined areas where the Curriculum office intersects with Rhinebeck's long range planning. Marvin cautioned that we are as successful as we are because, over time, Rhinebeck has built a deliberate and strong program that supports our students. We have very high graduation rates and though we may have a few non-completers, they are more often than not steered in the direction of beneficial programs. As we explore options for reduction or reconfiguration, critical questions must be asked about the intended and unintended consequences of any change. He requested that we begin to ask specific questions: "What would happen if we did X?" He will be better able to research and guide our discussions.

### **Summer Curriculum Update**

Marvin provided us with information regarding the summer curriculum work completed to date (see attached). Not all of it has been reviewed and approved through his office, but he wanted us to be aware of the breadth of work done. He provided copies of the new Anatomy & Kinesiology class in the High

School. We will review and discuss at our October meeting. In addition, the Journalism course curriculum and the first semester English 12 curriculum was provided for review. The second semester is still being developed and will follow shortly.

It was pointed out that a number of tech-related PD happened over the summer. Alison Vaccarino has finished meeting with 4 grade levels at CLS to better define the use of technology in the ELA curriculum. Though the Board won't need to approve the outcomes of this work, Marvin will put together a document outlining the exemplars of tech integration. Integration was done in the MS/HS with classroom flipping and use of Canvas as well.

### **NYSED Learning Standards**

Marvin also provided information regarding the rollout of the new state learning standards in ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies. We asked for a deeper dive into what has changed in these areas. ELA and Math have had some updates but the greatest changes occurred with Science and Social Studies. He will present a slide deck outlining the differences at our next meeting.

### **October 5 meeting agenda:**

- Anatomy & Kinesiology curriculum review & discussion
- Journalism review & discussion
- Review of changes to state learning standards - slide deck presentation

### **Ongoing agenda:**

- College & Careers review
- Kindergarten entry age
- CLS Math curriculum
- Long Range Curricular Planning
- Tech Integration K-12
- Health & Wellness as it pertains to curriculum

Respectfully submitted by Laura Schulkind