

AMITY REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING
September 23, 2010

Minutes

Members in attendance: Julie Altman, Joseph Abbatiello, Dr. John Brady, Sue Cohen, Diane Crocco, Steven DeMaio, Rita Gedansky, Thomas Hurley, Angela McNabola, Mary Raiola, Sheila Wycinowski

Guests: Frank Barretta, Estelle Fanucci

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Julie Altman.

Approval of Minutes – May 24, 2010

The first order of business was the approval of minutes of May 24, 2010. Tom Hurley made motion to approve the minutes. Rita Gedansky seconded the motion

Vote in favor: 6

Vote opposed: 0

Abstain: 1

Motion passed

Draft NEASC Update Report

Dr. Charles Britton shared the two year draft of the NEASC update report with the committee. He commended co-chairs Cara Haas and Sean Malloy for their excellent work in preparing the draft. Dr. Britton discussed two major changes since the last NEASC visit. He noted the elimination of level four and the extensive staff development training for teachers to support this level change. Dr. Britton discussed the extensive work completed to plan for the eight period day schedule next year. He addressed curriculum work underway to align all content curriculum to the eight period day. He also addressed ongoing curriculum articulation 7-12 in all content areas.

No Motion

On-Line Learning for High School Students

Warren Gohsler, District Technology Curriculum Facilitator, presented an overview of online programming available for students for learning. He noted benefits, concerns, and costs of the Virtual High School, the Keystone program and Virtual High School in Connecticut (Blackboard). The State of Connecticut has contracted the Florida Virtual High School for credit recovery. The cost of one course, online, through these programs range from \$375 - \$425. Mr. Gohsler noted we have an excellent, flexible tool at Amity in Moodle which can easily be used for online learning. All teachers have been trained in the basics of using Moodle. He also addressed in his presentation, new tools to the market and futuristic tools for transforming the classroom. Discussion centered around the benefit of online learning for students and the transforming classroom.

No Motion

Discussion of CMT Results / Improvement Plans

Dr. Richard Dellinger and Dr. Kathleen Fuller-Cutler discussed CMT scores. Both principals were very pleased with the results, the schools rank high in the DRG and New Haven County. The CMT goal for this year at both middle schools is to continue to have students achieve at the goal level with special emphasis on students accelerating their learning and reaching the advanced level. The focus on CMT improvement will continue to be literacy across all curricular areas, with special emphasis on numeracy (math) and problem-solving in science. Professional development grammar workshops will be held for all English teachers to continue to foster student achievement in writing. Current remediation plans for students will continue.

No Motion

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Discussion of CAPT Improvement Plans

Department heads, Mrs. Estelle Fanucci, science, and Mr. Frank Barretta, math, presented the CAPT Improvement Plans for science and math. Mrs. Fanucci outlined the data-driven process her department is embarking on to foster student achievement and plans for student remediation through science study halls. The emphasis for science will be on science inquiry and science problem-solving. Mrs. Fanucci and her department will work closely with the reading department to help students learn how to effectively read problem-solving scientifically-based literacy strategies.

Mr. Barretta discussed the data-driven decision-making process he is working on with his department members and ACES consultant, Emily Freel to foster student achievement in the CAPT. He discussed the role of his 9th/10th grade leadership team for CAPT and remediation plans for students using software packages and a pullout tutorial program for students. He will work closely with guidance and the administration to set up an effective remediation process.

No Motion

Review New Graduation Requirements

The new graduation requirements were tabled until the next meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila F. Wycinowski,
Director of Curriculum & Staff Development

SFW/bam