

**AMITY REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING
DISTRICT PRESENTATION ROOM
May 6, 2009, 5:00 PM**

Minutes

Please note: these minutes have not been approved

Members in attendance: Joe Abbatiello, Julie Altman, Charles Britton, Diane Crocco, Thomas Hurley, Mary Raiola, Robert Slie, Dr. Richard Dellinger, Sheila Wycinowski

Guests: Warren Gohsler

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Julie Altman, at 5:15 p.m.

The first order of business was the approval of minutes for April 1, 2009. Diane Crocco made a motion to approve the minutes, Joe Abbatiello seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Amity Technology Plan 2009-2012

The next order of business was the presentation of the revised District Technology Plan. Mrs. Wycinowski outlined the process for approval then Mr. Gohsler presented a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the changes to the plan from the last revision. A new system to meet the technology graduation requirement was presented coupled with new competencies for students at the middle school. Students at the end of middle school will meet the former high school competencies by grade 8 (NCLB standard) and will now begin to learn advanced competencies aligned with national standards throughout middle school and will continue applying these competencies, Web 2.0, throughout high school. The students will learn these Web 2.0 competencies through team-based projects facilitated by the building-based technology teacher. Much discussion ensued. Mr. Gohsler will make recommended changes to the document. Mr. Palmieri will contact Joe Abbatiello and Tom Hurley to provide further budgetary clarification. Mr. Hurley made a motion to approve the plan and forward it to the full Board for approval. Board members noted they would like to see technology presentations/student work and an introduction of the new Student Information System at a future meeting. Diane Crocco seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Science Text – Conceptual Physics

Conceptual Physics, by Paul G. Hewitt, Pearson Education, Inc., 2009

Dr. Charles Britton presented a level two text in Physics currently being piloted at Amity High School. Students are currently having difficulty with the text due to the trigonometry applications embedded in the text. The new text is conceptually based with emphasis on geometry and algebraic applications. It provides for increased literacy and comprehension strategies with accompanying teacher-based materials in literacy. We will need 72 copies of the text which will be purchased immediately to assist students. Diane Crocco made a motion to approve the text and forward it to the Board of Education for full approval. Tom Hurley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

NEASC Executive Summary Report Response Plan

Dr. Britton gave an executive summary of the NEASC Response Plan. Teachers support these recommendations, feel they are accurate, and will work together to complete most recommendations within a two-year period. He noted three major themes:

General Theme #1: Develop and implement a plan to improve the level of rigor in L3 and L4 classes, and revise special education programming to foster greater heterogeneity.

General Theme # 2: Implement a schedule that provides time and formal opportunities for teaches to meet and collaborate on instruction, curriculum, and assessment practices, and is more closely aligned with expectations contained in the Mission Statement.

General Theme # 3: Address the way curriculum is documented, aligned across and between grade levels, and articulated intra and inter-departmentally.

Other recommendations were related to the high school media center operations and media specialist involvement in curriculum implementation. The administration will address these recommendations through increased professional development in topics such as differentiated instruction, expanded co-teaching with regular/special educators and professional development training for teachers in the use of the Atlas Rubicon software to document/align the curriculum.

Tom Hurley made a motion to approve the response plan and send it to the full Board. Diane Crocco seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Altman asked that all items be placed on the Board of Education agenda.

Chairperson, Julie Altman, proposed the committee add a new agenda item. Tom Hurley made a motion to place the NEASC Executive Summary Report Response Plan on the agenda for discussion. Diane Crocco seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chair Altman called for adjournment. Joe Abbatiello made a motion to adjourn. Diane Crocco seconded the motion. The committee carried the motion and adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila F. Wycinowski,
Director of Curriculum & Staff Development

SFW/bam