

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of October 29, 2013

PRESENT: Larry Breech, Cheryl Kessler, Susan Myers, Frank Suchwala, Kathee Stark
Also present were Heidi Brandt, Carol Troisi

The meeting began at 6:30 pm with a review of the minutes of the last meeting. The committee was updated on the Co-op Program. There is another student who is interested in being part of the program for second semester. Officials at CMVT have indicated that this can be done.

The committee then focused on the implementation of the 1:1 initiative. A key document is the Acceptable Use Policy. This has been revised and reviewed by several administrators and faculty. The members of the committee were given a copy with the changes highlighted. They were asked to review the document and be prepared to recommend changes, if needed, at the next meeting. This needs to go to the Board for approval in November. All students, faculty and staff will need to sign another form agreeing to the terms of the document. The committee reviewed the document which establishes the costs to families. It is recommended that the cost be \$50 for one student with one computer (laptop or iPad) and \$75 for a family. There will be the option of a payment plan, and anyone who does not pay will not be able to take the computer home. There will be no charge for students in grades K-3 who will only use them at school at all times. A handbook for families is presently being finalized and will be ready for review at the next meeting. The committee also reviewed a tentative implementation schedule of family meetings, distributions, and teacher training.

Bloomsburg University began a pilot project this school year. They expanded the ACE program to provide an emphasis on STEM and mentors from the business world. This coming year, they would like to have a cohort in engineering and one in health careers. Courses are selected, in part, based on transferability to other universities. The students are responsible for the costs, although local companies provided the funding for this year. The districts are providing transportation to and from, in part because the cohorts begin junior year, and some may not be able to drive. We would need to provide tutoring or some other mechanism to complete pre-calculus work prior to entering the program. The committee has material to review for further discussion.

The committee was provided with copies of drafts of Pre-K and Kindergarten curricula for English Language Arts. These are in the process of being written by teachers from across the commonwealth. This summer, a faculty member indicated that only about half of our students enter Kindergarten ready to do the work that is expected at that level. Others are reviewing the curricula to confirm this evaluation. Some possible solutions to this problem include the implementation of a K4 program, sharing of the curriculum with local daycare and preschool programs, and parent trainings. More discussion is needed and a plan developed.

Mandated Reporter Training was discussed. The face-to-face program we used for the previous training is accepting training dates after July 1, 2014. Yet, everyone who has contact with children must be trained by the end of 2013. Most online programs are at specific times and must be completed in one setting. There is an approved online program which can be done over time. The recommendations of the committee include:

- Payment of the cost will be made for all current employees, including coaches, upon submission of certificate of completion.
- Bus drivers will receive reimbursement of half the cost.
- Substitutes must provide proof of certification with no reimbursement.

The members of the math, technology, and business departments have been preparing possible courses to fulfill the 4th math credit requirement for next year. The committee reviewed their possible options and will give them further consideration at the next meeting. The social studies teachers are recommending the addition of a semester course possible entitled American History III. However, consideration needs to be given to the timing and sequencing of courses to allow for preparation for a possible Keystone exam in Civics and Government.

The committee was informed that all students enrolled in Personal Finance must also complete the Everfi program which is underwritten by First Columbia Bank. This is also required of students in online courses. Representatives from the bank will be coming to recognize all students who complete the modules. There was concern that junior high students need study halls, despite calls for their elimination. Allocation of time for math and the career education courses will be reviewed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm. The next meeting will be Thursday, November 7.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathee Stark