

## CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING

### Minutes of November 7, 2013

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

The meeting began at 6:30 pm with approval of the minutes of the last meeting and the revised AUP. This policy will go to the Board for 1<sup>st</sup> reading on Monday night. The committee was satisfied that the policy includes protections for intellectual property and sufficient flexibility to allow students in the Tech Club to utilize the opportunities available to them.

The committee reviewed a revised schedule for distribution and implementation of the 1:1 initiative. While there have been some delays to allow teachers to be trained and plan for the rollout, all students will have their laptops and iPads for the second semester. A handbook for students and parents is being developed. This will be ready for review and approval by the Board at the end of the month. The committee had some suggestions to be incorporated into the handbook.

There was discussion about the care, storage, and protection of the computers. There is great concern that students will carry their laptops in their heavy book bags with damage too likely. After discussing the possibility of constructing cubicles or providing a system to hang their book bags on the walls during lunch, the committee recommended that students be excused from their pre-lunch class two minutes early. This will allow for all of them to go to their lockers. Book bags and computers will need to be stored there during lunch. This will allow and encourage students to only carry the books they must carry for the morning and then for the afternoon.

The committee was updated on the law concerning Mandated Reporter Training. While recommended to be completed by December of this year, the training must occur within the first five years of the law. The recommendation is that an Act 80 Day be scheduled for October 14 so that training may occur for new teachers, bus drivers, and any others who are required to be trained. Otherwise, they will need to complete an online course at their own expense. Substitute teachers will need to provide proof of training at their own expense.

There had been a request for AP and SAT data. The committee was provided copies of redacted scores. Both scores need to be improved for the benefit of the students and the SPP number. An SAT prep course is recommended as an additional ½ credit course to be offered in the math department. The committee also recommends consideration of the Business Math class and Accounting II as sources of the 4<sup>th</sup> math credit which will be required next year. Any of these options need to be completed as the capstone to a sequence which includes, at a minimum, Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. The committee had an extensive discussion of the ramifications of the Keystone exams. Remediation will be required to retake a test, and a second failure will result in the student being scheduled for the Project Based Assessment. By the time the present 6<sup>th</sup> graders reach high school, they may potentially find themselves completing projects for as many as two modules in each of five tested subjects. All of these will have to be completed at school under the supervision of the test coordinator who is the person with the passwords.

There was a concern expressed at the last meeting about the scheduling of courses for junior high students. The master schedule had been revised to address concerns, but now there are concerns that junior high students need study halls, and some are concerned that they will not be prepared for the Keystone exams. There is a tentative solution, but it would require Board action to hire a half-time math teacher. Review of the scheduling will continue, as well as additional discussion about changes for semester two.

NOTE: Second semester changes already in master schedule will allow for the change without hiring additional personnel.

The committee was informed that there will likely be a need for an Emotional Support classroom to be opened at the junior high level. The committee was asked about the teaching of keyboarding skills on iPads. It was indicated that there needs to be a discussion with teachers to determine their expectations for student technology expertise. This will determine when keyboarding will be taught. It was indicated that small, portable keyboards can be purchased to make this possible. There was also a question about desktop computers remaining in the library to search for books. This, too, will need further exploration.

The committee adjourned to Executive Session for personnel matters. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathee Stark