



Curriculum and Instruction Committee Agenda
December, 2021
Start time: 6:30PM

1. Amistad Overview and Update (Mr. Preston)

- a. Mr Preston's presentation is in the shared folder.
- b. All SS curricula approved by BOE.
- c. K-12 grade level proficiencies created in 2019 and embedded in every curricula.
- d. Teacher Professional Development
 - 1. Grades 4 & 5 - Teaching Hard History - Teaching Tolerance
 - Support in teaching Hard History
 - 2. Resources were shared with all teachers in one spot
 - ii. CHS Exhibit in collaboration with the Durand-Hedden publication, *Slavery in New Jersey, A Troubled Past*. Mr. Preston shared part of the presentation
 - 1. US History 1 classes Participated
 - 2. Corresponding lessons
- e. Supporting teachers and making connections to anti-bias PD in the District:
 - i. Mr. Preston leads his 5th grade teachers in unpacking the unit before it is taught. They try to predict pitfalls and how to avoid them.
 - ii. We also have self select topics for PLCs and this work has been selected by many school in the district.
- f. Mr. Preston - Read *Cast* as a department. Many discussions have come out of this book - What are the implications of us as educators and students as learners. This group has grown and new books will be added each year.
- g. BOE Member Maini - How is this weaved into Atlas? The work now is to put the individual lessons into Atlas for teachers. The public Atlas site does have the Amistad connections to units.
- h. BOE Member Cuttle - Appreciated the presentation. Please ensure that the curriculum shows all parts of the diverse mandated curricula and that it is intersectional. Ensure that we are not just looking for check marks.
- i. BOE Member Wright - This is great that the resources are there, but how do we ensure that the staff knows how to use this? Mr. Preston has been giving PD to teachers and will continue to. Starting with grades 4&5. There are numerous conversations that Mr. Preston has in

his department meetings - Middle school and high school. During the pandemic all the middle school and high school teachers have shared all of their lessons and resources. This has continued.

- j. Board Member Wright - PLCs are staff picked. How do we monitor this work? Dr. Friedman - We have a Google form that staff will be filling out after each PLC date. We started introducing the PLC protocols the past few mnths using a Book Study. Teachers will now move onto self selected topics. We can update you on the topics.
 - k. Dr. Friedman - A great feature of Atlas - We can look at standards and see how often these standards are addressed, if they are cross curricular, and we can see strengths and weaknesses. This will help with the intersectionality of topics and standards.
 - l. BOE Member Malespina since we do not have lesson plans in Atlas we actually cannot see if teachers are teaching them. Dr. Friedman - Yes correct, but having lesson plans in Atlas was always in the project plan for year 2.
2. CHS Updates (Principal Sanchez and team) Presentation is in the shared folder
- a. Student touchstone update -
 - i. There is a new counseling website that give an enourmous amount of information. There is also a brochure that walks parents through the supports available.
 - 1. Counselors
 - 2. CHS Social Work Interns
 - 3. Student Assistance Counselors
 - 4. Lists of mental health supports
 - ii. Types of touchpoint meetings
 - 1. Beginning of the year - Couselors and Freshamn in groups
 - 2. Then 1:1 counselors with seniors and juniors
 - 3. Then 1:1 with sophomores
 - 4. Then back to small groups with Freshman.
 - iii. I&RS Meetings
 - iv. Meet and Greets with students and parents all this week 12/13 - 12/16
 - b. CHS 1st marking period grade analysis
 - i. Supervisors and VPs meet weekly and talk about students at "risk"
 - ii. They review daily report on attendance
 - iii. The team has now moved onto looking at Q1 grades during these meetings.
 - iv. Mr. Misbahuddin has worked to gather grade information on all the STEM classes. Other supervisors will use this chart for their department. There will be meetings with teachers to discuss these students. We will also meet with students and parents.

- v. Dr. Bean-Folkes has been reviewing Star data and they also look at Start Strong data.
- vi. It seems that this year there are less As given than in 2019 and Fs are up this year compared to 2019
 - 1. We are trying to see what skills we really need to embed in our freshman and sophomores as they seem to be struggling the most
 - 2. Junior and Senior grade's are pretty comparable 2019 to 2021
 - 3. Our interventions are based on all of the data mentioned.
 - 4. Ethnicity data was also shown.
- c. CHS School Profile updates
 - i. Profile was updated this summer by Mr. Sanchez and Ms. Balassone. Added ACT and SAT score data along with colleges and universities that our students attend. On counseling website- There is a "Senior College Jumpstart" - handbook for college application process.
 - ii. Ms. Butler continues to update our new senior website. It has all the information seniors will need.
- d. Caribbean Studies Class- Mr. Sanchez will be team teaching this class with Ms. Karis. There were 3 information sessions - the focus is on agency. There are 2 sections of this course - 40 students - demographics are in the slides
- e. Dual enrollment - We are looking into dual enrollment courses from the Equity Lab - An educational Consortium. Many diverse colleges. Should start in 2022-2023 school year.
- f. Student Rep Morros -
 - i. Dual Enrollment - When would that start?
 - 1. Mr. Sanchez - Fall 2022, students apply for these classes in the spring, there should be a vast array of opportunities for students
- g. BOE Member Malespina
 - i. Start Strong scores- When will parents get these?
 - 1. Delivered to the District yesterday and will be home by approximately January 13th
 - 2. We will have a presentation within the next 60 days on Start Strong data
 - ii. Some concerns about the CHS School profile. BOE Member Malespina still feels it is missing context. There are recommendations from NADA, college counselors and College Boards - missing information would be: GPA info, Grading process, Mean SAT.
 - 1. BOE Member Malespina will send areas that are missing.
 - 2. It has improved but it still has a long way to go.

iii. BOE member Winfield

- 1. Thank you for the detailed data - gives us real context especially comparing it to 2019**
- 2. Interventions - Appreciates that struggling kids are on the radar. If I am a parent of one of these students, what can I expect from teachers that are consistent?**
 - a. We want to make sure that we are reaching out to parents first. We do that through the counseling annex**
 - b. Supports:**
 - i. Achieve**
 - ii. Slam Labs**
 - iii. Teachable Tuesdays etc.**
 - c. These interventions can be signed up by parents, students and teachers on counseling website**
 - d. We are now keeping track of who is going to conference time. We would like to look at the schedule for next year and we need to know this information**
 - e. Extra credit and extensions are being talked about by VPs and Supervisors.**
 - f. Expectations of teachers usually are by department - make ups, extra credit etc. We actually extended the marking period to allow this.**
 - g. We are looking at instructional best practices**
 - h. We have been deemphasizing extra credit so that students can show mastery of a concept.**

3. BOE Member Wright

- a. What exactly are you doing for students who are struggling?**
 - i. Same protocols we had for attendance review we are now doing with grades.**
 - ii. We focus on students with Ds and Fs.**

4. BOE Member Wright What interventions are we doing for all students?

- a. Achieve Tutoring - Numbers are very high**
- b. Reading Intervention Programs grades 3-5**
- c. Tutoring after school**
- d. K-2 & 6-8 Academic Intervention**
- e. Freckle K-12**
- f. I&RS Plans for individual students**

- g. High School Perspective - Adding a social worker at the guidance level has been positive. Capacity has been a real issue
- 5. BOE Member Cuttle - Thank you for exploring other options of dual enrollment
 - a. Hope that we explore other options beyond dual enrollment
 - b. We need to be mindful that we keep all students in the forefront of our minds and not just expanding AP enrollment.
 - c. We need to ensure that we are expanding everyone's experiences so that they can be their best selves.
- 6. BOE Member Malespina
 - a. Concerned we have not seen data for all schools. We need to see how all students are doing across the district and ensure that they are consistent.
 - b. Dr. Friedman - This has been a focus since he has come into the district. Strides in consistency are at the forefront.
- 3. Approvals for December
 - a. Curricula
 - i. Humanities Grade 9
 - ii. Creative Writing Grades 9-12
 - iii. Poetry Grades 9-12
 - b. Field Trips
 - i. CHS Band Trip - Spring - Vetted by SLT and Nurse Porter
 - c. New Class Proposal
 - i. STEM - Intro to Biotechnology
 - ii. STEM - Statistics - Honors
- 4. Tutoring update (Dr. Friedman and Ms. Bodnar)
 - a. Presentation is in shared folder
 - b. Survey data shared
 - c. Wanted to give a visual on what the interest is for tutoring, but there are many gaps that need to be filled.
 - d. We will need to bring in a 3rd party to support these gaps.
 - e. We are anxious to get tutoring started. Hoping to move this to upper elementary grades too
 - f. Counsel is continuing to negotiate with SOMEA for tutoring
 - g. We could not put a pay scale because it is negotiated
 - h. BOE Member Cuttle - The response seems low. Will there be another go at the survey at a different time? Have we looked into how we are framing the questions in the survey? How well did we encourage teachers to participate in the survey?

- i. Dr. Friedman - We did meet with the 3 principals to send the same message. We asked them to encourage teachers to fill this out and we extended the deadline. We tried to keep it simple as much as possible.
 - i. BOE Member Wright
 - i. We keep making programs and not working with best practices
- 5. Policies
 - a. 2480 Alternative Education -
 - i. Viewed by Ms. Balassone - No changes needed
 - ii. District covers tuition and transportation
 - iii. BOE Member Malespina - I think we should be promoting this option. It is hard to find info on this in the District. We talk about college and career ready. We are good about the college part not so much the career part. We should have a meeting for our parents about this
 - iv. Dr. Friedman - I 100% agree with you. You don't know what you don't know. Having informational evenings will be happening
 - v. BOE Member Maini also agrees that we need to do better getting this information out about both Union and Essex County Vo-techs.
 - b. 5519 Dating Violence - Will not be moving forward - would like to get feedback from Taskforce
 - c. 2415.20 Every Student Succeeds Act
 - d. 2415.04 Title I Parent Involvement
- 6. Special Services
 - a. Department Update
 - i. All students who are in Evidence Based Reading program are receiving services. Still looking for another teacher to work on missed sessions.
 - b. SEPAC Meeting - The parents got to meet Ms. Budine and she heard the concerns of the parents.
- 7. Equity
 - a. Update - There will be a presentation on Monday for AP classes for middle and high schools.
- 8. January Presentation
 - a. Ms. Bean - Tang math partnership
 - b. Dr. Bean-Folkes - TC
 - c. Dr. Robles - ELL/WL update
- 9. New Buisness
 - a. BOE Cuttle - Bathroom Access during the day
 - i. Would like to hear on Monday how we are addressing this.
 - b. BOE Malespina

- i. **Concerns on how this meeting is being run. Wants to focus on data points and board goals. We also need the agenda to be public**
- c. **BOE Winkfield - Would like to know if the transgender regs are available and being adhered to at the schools**