

**Board of Education  
Curriculum and Instruction  
Agenda  
May 7, 2020**

Curriculum and Instruction

- New Course Proposal – Dr. Jane Bean-Folkes
  - English 3/Literature of the African Diaspora  
This course will be an Academic and Honors mixed class. The goal of this mixed level class is to allow our Academic level students who are reluctant to try an Honors class understand that they are capable of doing the work required of a higher level class and as a result will choose the Honors level. The teacher has been hand selected and is skilled in Differentiated Instruction and teaching both Academic and Honors level courses. In this environment students will pick their level by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> marking period. If they choose to start the year off at the Honors level and find that it is too difficult they will remain in the same class and will seamlessly switch to and Academic Level. Our focus will be to pilot this structure with this class particular class for the 2020-2021 school year and continue to expand to Sports Literature 2021-2022.
- New Grading System for Fourth Quarter – Our new Grading System was created with all grade level administrators and SLT members. We heard the concerns of the community and created a system that we believe meets the needs of all of our students.
- **DRAFT** - Administrator Walkthrough Document for Distance Learning – This document is designed to support administrators when visiting Google Classrooms. It will help to ensure that all expectations of Distance Learning have been met.
- **DRAFT** - Modified Lesson Plan Template for Teachers – This document allows administrators to see the flow of a unit and the consistency of student learning across classes.
- Math Class Selection Night Grades 5-7 Over 300 parents in attendance. Recorded presentation is on the district website.
- Summer School – All positions have been posted. We are waiting for more direction from the State about summer classes so that we can plan further.
- IT Department is holding PD sessions for Distance Learning – Keith Bonds and his department have been giving Distance Learning professional development. Examples are: Little Sis for Administrators and Google apps for teachers. These opportunities will continue throughout Distance Learning.
- Distance Learning Attendance/Engagement Data – Attendance data by school.

- Chromebook/Hotspot Update We have handed out 890 Chromebooks at this point and continue to do so weekly. We have 81 Hotspot ready for distribution. First distribution was May 6<sup>th</sup>. We will continue to schedule distribution dates.
- Elementary Equity Audit Update – Dr. Fergus is working on the audit. We should have a formal write up in the next month or so.
- School Supplies –Seth Boyden School will be handing out school supplies with meals.
- EBooks K-12 – We purchased a subscription for each school to have access to hundreds of titles and multiple copies of each title. We also encourage families to take advantage of the public libraries who also have eBooks available.
- Policies - Maternal Accommodations (New) – almost complete, Transgender Student Policy (revisions needed) will focus on next month. There should be very little revisions needed. Dr. Morana will give advice on a policy revision schedule before her last day.

### **Special Education:**

- **PreK Program Update**

Expansion will include a total of 314 seats for general education students. Recruitment of three and four-year olds will include a partnership with Seth Boyden Elementary School community.

|                                                     |       |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Returning students as four-year olds                | = 74  |
| Total available seats for new students in 2020-2021 | = 240 |

June 2019 – August 2020 Action Plan has been developed to guide the implementation of the Pre-K Program Initiative.

- **Extended School Year Planning**

Posting for staff to work within a traditional school-based or online learning environment was disseminated to all staff. Staff must commit to implementing video-conferencing or a tele-practice approach.

Families are responding to the invitation electronically or they can reach out to our supervisors to respond to the invitation. The invitation includes a question whether a chrome book is needed throughout our students' participation in the 4-hour ESY Program.

Program Dates: July 1, 2020 – August 12, 2020

- **Related Services Plan – Reassessment**

While on April 4, 2020, the State Board of Education provided guidance regarding the delivery of related services using “tele-practice” during this emergency pandemic period, the planning and delivery of related services during distance learning is complex at best, particularly as we respond to the needs of over 500 students who are in need of a combination of occupational, physical or speech-language therapy, and counseling.

To be able to provide services to a large number of students, the plan was modified several times and this delayed the rollout and notification to our parents. I recognize that communication with our families was not shared until April 16, 2020, I do sincerely apologize and I assume responsibility for the delay. I thank you for your continued support as the district forges ahead with the implementation of a plan that calls for resources to be maximized to the best of its ability, with the understanding that the implementation of the plan must be reassessed by May 4, 2020; therefore, being able to make necessary adjustments. The current plan incorporates two models:

**Model 1** services ALL students eligible for related services using Google Classroom as an approach to engaging students and their families. Grade appropriate activities coupled with weekly interaction with the therapist through the use of the telephone or Google Hangouts Meet.

School social workers have been working with students and families using a similar approach depicted in Model 1 and incorporating video-conferencing, as appropriate.

**Model 2** services ALL students whose IEPs call for participation in the Extended School Year Program (ESY). Tele-practice is being used to deliver **individual** occupational, physical and speech-language services one time per week for 20 minutes.

- **Department Leadership Transition Plan - April 27, 2020 - May 28, 2020**

The goal of the transition period is to introduce Dr. Alegria to the structure that has been put into place since I started on May 29, 2018. Every aspect of the operation of the Department is being discussed.

Folders, binders and e-folders will support the transition.  
July 2020 – August 2020 Action Plan has been developed

- **Partnership with NYU – Data Workbook Project**

A delay was experienced due to Emergency Pandemic – Will reassess next week.

- **Regulations: Policy 8420**

FINAL DRAFT will be submitted to the Policy Committee on/about May 23, 2020.

**Parent-Friendly Suspension of Students with Disabilities**

FINAL DRAFT will be submitted to the Policy Committee on/about May 23, 2020.  
Parent group will be reconvened on/about May 22, 2020.

- **Homeless Families: Reassessment and Recommendation for 2020-2021**

This work will be completed and/or about May 15, 2020.

- **Restraining/Seclusion of Students with Disabilities Data Collection: Verification**

This work will be completed and/or about May 22, 2020.

**Items for Discussion throughout the year:**

- **Section 504 Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)**
- **Partnership with Essex County Vocational-Technical School**
- **QSAC Planning**
- **PreK Program Implementation**
- **Evidence Based-Reading Program Guidelines**
- **Nursing Program**
- **Budget Status**
- **Special Education Program Highlights**

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- **Policies: To be submitted to Policy Committee June 2020**

2412. - Home Instruction Due to Health Condition
- 5337 - Service Animals (District Discretion)
  - 6111 - State Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program
  - 8441.1 - Use of Defibrillators (will consult with FFT Committee)

On Tuesday, May 12, 2020, these policies will be shared with members of the Curriculum Committee for preliminary review and feedback. Subsequently, a brief conference call will be scheduled by Curriculum Committee Chair, Elizabeth Baker.