

Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

4:30 p.m.

District Offices, Board Room

Attendees: Dr. Michelle Cardwell, John Lumia, Peggy Kelland, Amy Fazio, Jessica Turner, Helen Soyka, Flip Gertler, Dave Seipp, Linda Rappaport, Ray Koretsky, Christine Zandstra, Barbara Goodman, Cheryl Migatz, Stephanie Melvin

There was one member of the public present at the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Dr. Michelle Cardwell.

- Welcome from Dr. Cardwell and Introduction by Committee Members – Mr. Carrión could not attend due to a conflict. Discussion of the Charter, breakdown of the committee, possible topics to discuss, meetings are open to the public.
- Based upon the different topics, recommendations will be made to other committees to continue the work of this committee, i. e., Action Committee, Professional Development Committee and opportunities to add to the Strategic Plan.
- Review data if appropriate, textbooks related resources, building level scheduling if applicable, new courses, as appropriate. The committee is not evaluative in any way. Must be kept general. Be mindful of what cannot be discussed. The committee is not a decision making committee. The committee will make recommendations as applicable. The core committee is always expected to be present. The purpose of the sub-committee is to have additional voices for different topics. Have appropriate representation to have enough voices at the table. Once agendas are set, the appropriate members will be asked to attend from the sub-committees.
- Role of Committee was discussed. Definition of Curriculum: What we are teaching the students. Instruction is how it is taught, the pedagogy. The committee will focus on K-12 curriculum – what is being taught. The committee will not talk about instructional practices in the classroom.

- Question: Is the current curriculum appropriate for students at all levels? If not, how can it improve? What should be examined? Solicit feedback from department TCs regarding what problems in the curriculum are not being addressed.
- Concern: Common Core Standards limit the curriculum being taught. Parents and teachers should have input regarding what should be brought back and taught that was removed because of common core.
- Question: Is Common Core making students better learners? Are we improving thinking skills for students with common core or should it go away?
- Suggestion: There should be vertical alignment from elementary to secondary levels. Do the students have the skills they need for the secondary levels? Skills are hard to teach. High school is content driven. There is a huge emphasis on ELA and math.
- Recommendation was made to revise the Charter to include both a social studies and science teacher on the sub-committee.
- Comment: Common Core and APPR affect curriculum choices. Test scores and regents exams tied to APPR. Pressure from NYSED to conform. Complex factors, i.e. methodology being used. Life commitment to teach the common core curriculum. Teacher evaluations tied to regents exams.
- Comment from the public attendee: She serves on the Legislative Action Committee. A high school student on the committee raised an issue regarding diversity of curriculum offered/ equity in course offerings. Can virtual classrooms be offered for specialty courses? Also, do all students have access to the various courses available, i.e., AP courses at both high schools? Increase the number of students taking high level courses. Examine the criteria used in order to take a high level course, including college courses. There are not enough spaces offered for students who want to attend BOCES CTI.

- How effective is i-Ready? Pros – Students can access it at home. It helps parents to see how the lesson is taught.
- Concern: How much time is spent on assessments in i-Ready? Does it take away from too much instruction time? i-Ready should not be used to replace instruction. All teachers in every building have been trained on i-Ready based upon the needs of the school.
- Concern: Some schools have more access to technology. More chrome books are needed in the schools. Refer technology needs to Daren Lolkema/Art Schouten.
- Technology guided instruction is not necessarily better than a textbook. Students need to correct their work and do it over in order to reinforce the lesson and prevent carelessness. Students have become producers of work. They are not being taught how to engage with the material being taught but rather to produce it through technology.
- Concern: Technology gets outdated quickly for students. How is technology integrated into the curriculum? Invite the technology integration specialist to the next committee meeting.
- Is there scaffolding of skills for every subject? At every building? Subjects are compartmentalized. Need more interdisciplinary opportunities.
- Dr. Cardwell adjourned the Curriculum Committee meeting at 5:35 p.m.