

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 17
CURRICULUM COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, May 11, 2010, 3:35 p.m. – 4:48p.m., *CENTRAL OFFICE*

Minutes to be taken by: Pamela Hensel

Members in attendance: Pamela Hensel, Sheila Ward, Eric Larson, Gary Mala, Amy Jacques-Purdy, Pat Muzzulin, Eileen Blewett, Miriam Wagner, Tracy Whaples, Lori Raczka, Elisa Pitoniak, Jane Harris

ITEM PRESENTER

10-103 Introductions Gary Mala

10-104 **New Business**

a. *NEASC Reports and Updates* Charles Macunas, Priscilla Luoma, Shelia Ward

Charlie distributed a schedule for Scott Brown from LEARN. Mr. Brown will review student work samples from each department. He will identify strengths and weaknesses in each department collection. At the end of the day Scott will provide each department rep and the school principal with a complete checklist evaluating each departmental collection of work.

b. *Consideration and Possible Approval of Financial Algebra textbook* As Requested
Sheila explained that the Financial Algebra textbook is a 4th year of Math taught with real life applications. It is also a review of Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra skills that students will need for SAT's , college, and beyond. Forty students are signed up, there will be two sections. Sheila requested 40 textbooks be purchased in the 2010-2011 school year at a cost of \$4,329.60. There were no objections to the book.

c. *Impact of 2010 Legislative Session* Gary Mala
Gary reviewed the following changes being addressed in this latest legislative session:

- Race To The Top (RTTT) is gaining support in CT. Many districts are signing on despite the lack of future funding. CT has the largest achievement gap in the nation. There were 16 grants in total available and only 10 remain.
- Board of Education can be reconstituted for consistently failing schools.
- Alternate Route Program for Principals
- Parent Trigger Bill – allows formation of parent governing councils to save schools (for consistently failing schools).
- Minimum 2 parent conferences per year.
- By 2015 the CALI Initiative (model) will be used in all CT school districts.
- CES supporting districts sign on to RTTT
- Evaluations of principals and teachers – changes coming including pay for performance.
- Elementary Secondary Education Act – subject to changes upcoming.
- Transportation reimbursement from the state to towns was eliminated in the legislature. We may not get the money we budgeted to fund IDEA.

Eric asked if there was any discussion about the state changing the kindergarten admission date. Gary indicated there was not. Amy Jacques-Purdy suggested a Kindergarten Transition Program. Gary indicated that the state would not even agree to do a state wide school calendar, he felt a Kindergarten Transition Program was unlikely.

Old Business

10-105 *2010-2011 Budget* Gary Mala

Gary remarked that he was appreciative of resident's support of the Boards budget. The average increase of budgets that have passed is 2.02%.

10-106 Task Force to research and present information on *Multi-age Instruction* and Bryan Kerachsky

Looping – No Update

Patty Muzzulin

- 10-107 Task Force to research and present information on *Algebra I - Update* Wendy Adamczyk
Bryan Kerachsky
Patty Muzzulin

Patty distributed information she received from schools she contacted regarding Algebra 1 in grade 8. Of the 7 school districts who responded in CT, only 1 offered Algebra in grade 8. The state of Florida does not require Algebra 1 in 8th grade. Texas requires that Algebra 1 be taken but not what grade it must be taken in.

Items to schedule for discussion at future meetings

- 10-108 Discussion of proposal to introduce *Internship* as graduation requirement commencing in 2011-2012 Gary Mala
Gary remarked that in secondary school reform, internship would be a requirement.

- 10-109 Other items for discussion at future meetings Gary Mala

- a. Evaluation of full day kindergarten program – Gary noted that our full day kindergarteners are now going into 3rd grade. Gary suggested that we need to look at where they are, what has our program done, what are the trends?
- b. Review of longitudinal data of HKHS graduates
Maryann shared that 90% of our students who go to college, return for a 2nd year. Approximately 25-44% of our students attend in state colleges.
Fifty percent of those that completed surveys earned a BS Degree in 4 years.
- c. Requisite changes at HKMS and HKHS to facilitate State Department of Education secondary school reform model
- d. Requisite changes at HKHS in response to NEASC Report
- e. Electronic Student Portfolios

- 10-110 Question and Answer All
Pat Muzzulin would like to see more outreach programs with other countries. Gary stated that Dan Gregg is coming to LEARN to present to Superintendents regarding this topic.

- 10-111 Next Meeting: June 8, 2010