

CENTRAL BUCKS SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Board Curriculum Committee
April 5, 2017
Board Room – 16 Welden Drive
7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Gamble, Member
Dennis Weldon, Member
Jerel Wohl, Member

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS AND ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Beth Darcy
Glen Schloeffel
Karen Smith
Mr. John Kopicki
Dr. David Bolton
Dr. Scott Davidheiser
Mr. Scott Berger
Mr. Richard Kratz

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Sharon Collopy

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The meeting minutes from March 8, 2017 meeting were reviewed and approved without changes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were two members of the public that commented on concerns that they have regarding the recent discussions on the removal of the standard that states, ‘respects all members of the community’ from the elementary report card and concerns on the discussion on ‘cultural proficiency’ in the middle school draft philosophy. Mrs. Darcy clarified that some of the confusion lies in that our meeting minutes are only a reflection and does not included the entire conversations that happen at the meetings. Mrs. Darcy stated that asking questions is an important part of the process but we are relying on the education experts, we are all trying to achieve what is best for our students. Mrs. Darcy, along with some other board members encourages the public to reach out to board members.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Honors Algebra 2/Trigonometry Course of Study and Honors Precalculus/Trigonometry Course of Study—Mr. Richard Kratz, Supervisor K-12 Mathematics, presented information on new honors level courses. Mr. Kratz, along with a group of 42 teachers worked on the revisions of the courses. Mr. Kratz explained the differences between the honors and academic level courses. The new honors level courses will be taught at a faster pace, be more complex, have different final exams, different core assessments and different prerequisites than the academic level courses. The committee approved these courses to move to full board for approval.

Mr. Kratz is also asking the committee to approve retroactively weight students from the graduating classes of 2018, 2019, and 2020 that completed 2900: Algebra 2/Trig (as a ninth grader) and/or 2111: Accelerated Precalculus/Trig prior to 2017-2018 school year. Mr. Kratz explained the reasons for and against this recommendation.

There was much discussion about this recommendation. Mr. Kratz clarified that the other new honors level courses will not be retroactively weighted because Math courses are different since students can take different levels of math in any grade.

Questions were asked about why are we doing this and the impact to a student’s GPA. Mr. Kratz explained that this recommendation is more about those students who will be applying to colleges. Mr. Kratz explained that the honors level is only a .25 weight and will have a minimal impact on the final

GPA. Dr. Davidheiser explained that this will allow all students in 2018, 2019, and 2020 to be at the same level.

The committee will move this recommendation to the full board for approval.

9th Grade Honors United States History Course of Study—Mr. Scott Berger, Supervisor K-12 Social Studies, presented information on a new 9th grade honors course. Mr. Berger, along with the 9th grade social studies teachers worked on the new honors course. Mr. Berger explained the differences between the honors and academic courses. The honors course will have a different midterm, different final exam, different core assessment than the academic level course. The prerequisites are now the following: Advanced Social Studies 8, A or B or teacher recommendation; Academic Social Studies 8, A or A- or teacher recommendation. Along with Advanced English 8, A or B or teacher recommendation; Academic English 8, A or A- or teacher recommendation. Mr. Berger explained that the additional prerequisite in English is required because of the rigor and students will need the higher-level skill set to be successful in the honors level social studies course. Mrs. Darcy asked about the reading books and the textbook. Mr. Berger explained that there is already an approved list of books that students can choose from and that the textbook will remain the same.

The committee will move this recommendation to the full board for approval.

Elementary Report Card Update and Discussion—Dr. David Bolton, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education spoke briefly about the elementary report card and presented draft copies to the committee. Dr. Bolton explained that the draft copies of the report cards, along with some FAQs and a survey to provide feedback can be found on the district website. <http://www.cbsd.org/Page/37988>

Mr. Weldon thanked Dr. Bolton for all of the work and appreciated the transparency. Mrs. Darcy also thanked Dr. Bolton and said the report card committee did a great job.

Adjournment—8:34 PM

Next Meeting — May 10, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.