

CENTRAL BUCKS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Curriculum Committee Minutes
August 8, 2018

Committee Members Present

Mrs. Sharon Collopy

Mrs. Jodi Schwartz

Dr. John Kopicki, Superintendent

Dr. Scott Davidheiser, Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Nadine Garvin, Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Abram Lucabaugh, Assistant Superintendent

Committee Members Absent

Mrs. Beth Darcy

Mr. Dennis Weldon

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mrs. Collopy

REVIEW OF MEETING NOTES

The June 13, 2018 Curriculum Committee Meeting minutes were reviewed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPROVAL:

Elementary Math Program: Mr. Richard Kratz, Supervisor of K-12 Mathematics, presented information and recommendations for a new elementary math program. Mr. Kratz reviewed data from the pilot program, noting that Math in Focus and Go Math! had very similar statistics. Twenty-seven teachers participated in the pilot program for each course. Each pilot course was reviewed, including responses from teachers, students and parents. Mr. Kratz noted that Math in Focus materials are more appropriately challenging for students in our district. He remarked that grades for students participating in the Math in Focus pilot were slightly higher than those that participated in the Go Math! pilot. Go Math! recently announced that the program is in its final version and would not be updated. It will be replaced by a new program that is not able to be reviewed at this time. The final version would not be moved to their new technology platform, but they would support the final version if CB decided to adopt it. Math in Focus is releasing an updated 2020 edition that will be available for review in the spring of 2019. Since a Fall 2019 start is scheduled for a new elementary math program, the 2020 version of Math in Focus would be available if it were preferred over the current Math in Focus program. Pricing for the 2020 edition of Math in Focus is not yet available.

Mr. Kratz is recommending that the district purchase the Math in Focus calendar routine as a teacher resource, providing consistency in teaching routine throughout the district. He presented information regarding teacher training and pricing. He noted that the curriculum would be written during the coming year, and the 2020 version would be reviewed before a final recommendation would be made to the Board.

Mrs. Collopy thanked Mr. Kratz for negotiating the price and noted that Math in Focus also benefits by having CB as a customer. She expressed excitement at the adoption of a new math program, commenting that while cost is a factor the primary consideration is supporting the students with a program that will help make them successful. Mr. Kratz reviewed positive teacher comments regarding the Math in Focus program. Math in Focus is being utilized in many of the most exemplary PA school districts. Mr. Kratz contacted several of those districts and presented their positive reviews. Types of math problems used in both Go Math! and Math in Focus were reviewed, and Mr. Kratz noted that he preferred the Math in Focus style problems for CB students. Staff development will be required to

ensure teaching staff are prepared for the new program, and Mr. Kratz is confident that support will be successful.

Mrs. Schwartz and Mrs. Collopy inquired about the plans for the students that participated in the pilot program. Mr. Kratz noted almost all classes would continue with the Math in Focus program, except for a sixth-grade class that will return to the Everyday Math program. Mrs. Schwartz expressed concern that once the new program is implemented in 2019, sixth grade students would be faced with a new program during a pivotal year. Mrs. Collopy commented the strength of the Math in Focus program would help those students transition to middle school. Mr. Kratz was asked if the Math in Focus program had been reviewed for use in learning support classrooms. He noted that the learning support supervisors will review the pilot data and determine how the program will be adapted for learning support classrooms. He remarked that the Math in Focus program is linear and will be well-suited for learning support students. Dr. Kopicki noted the district's responsibility to present the curriculum to the special education student, adapted to the specific accommodations needed for them to participate successfully. Mrs. Schwartz remarked that supplementary materials would be utilized to support students and asked if those supplementary materials had been reviewed during the pilot program. Mr. Kratz noted that they had not yet been reviewed, regular education classes were the focus during the pilot. Dr. Kopicki reassured Mrs. Schwartz that whatever accommodations were needed to support students, the district would meet. Dr. Garvin noted that the Special Education supervisors will review the program to ensure their student's needs are being met.

Mr. Kratz recommends that the Math in Focus program be adopted as the new elementary math curriculum. The Committee agrees to move the recommendation forward to the full board for approval.

Secondary Math Final Course Revisions/Requests for Approval: Mr. Kratz noted that textbooks for Math 7, Prealgebra 7, Prealgebra 8 and Algebra 3/Trig had already been approved by the Board. He presented details regarding the curriculum developed for each class. Teacher training will take place on August 29. Dr. Garvin and Dr. Kopicki expressed thanks to Mr. Kratz for his time, effort and dedication while working with the committees on the curriculum development and the elementary math pilot program.

The Committee agrees to recommend all courses to the full board for approval.

Secondary Business and Technology Course Revisions/Requests for Approval: Mr. Johnathon Boyle (Asst. Principal – Unami) and Mr. John Murtha (Asst. Principal – Tohickon), Business and Technology Department Liaisons, offered a brief overview of the three courses presented for approval.

Mary Accetta (Business Teacher – CB East) and Caroline Fosbenner (Business Teacher – CB West) provided details on the curriculum for the **Digital Marketing** and **Entrepreneurship** high school courses. They noted that the Digital Marketing course introduces students to the growing world of digital media and commerce. Students will integrate marketing and media design elements in a variety of software and online applications. Course activities include designing print media, multimedia communications and applying digital marketing concepts to social media platforms including Snapchat, Instagram and other online applications. In the proposed Entrepreneurship course, students will experience the benefits and risks of self-employment and develop a specific competence in starting a small business. Innovative content will allow students the latitude to explore individual interests using 21st century skills, personalized learning and collaborative activities. The end piece to the curriculum will be a trade show where students will pitch their “product” to the student population. Dr. Lucabaugh noted that there are eleven sections of students (284) across the three high schools already signing up for these courses, indicating a high level of excitement for the curriculum.

Curriculum Committee Minutes
August 8, 2018

Melissa Hallman (Technology Ed teacher – Holicong), Natalie Spatafora (Technology Ed teacher – Unami), Matthew Powell (Technology Ed teacher – Tohickon) and Luke Drake (Technology Ed teacher – Tamanend) presented the proposed curriculum for the **Integrated Technology 2** course, which will be offered to eighth and ninth-grade students this school year. The project-based course will require students produce an ongoing collection of their work through a digital portfolio. There are three units in the curriculum. Each unit will prepare students for the technology skills required for high school, college and career. The course will introduce students to the essentials of entrepreneurship through the application of how entrepreneurs utilize technology to start and operate companies. Students will construct a business plan using the MS office Suite along with creating and presenting a website and commercial using Web 2.0 tools. The course will use business concepts to teach many different technologies, giving students a real-world application for the different programs. The last unit will include a “Shark Tank” scenario, where students will present their product to a panel of teachers. Dr. Davidheiser expressed appreciation to the Technology Ed teachers for their hard work with the Integrated Technology 1 course and their commitment to developing the Integrated Technology 2 course.

The Committee agrees to move all three courses to the full board for approval.

Additional Commentary: Dr. Kopicki thanked Dr. Davidheiser for his work with the middle school schedule. He congratulated Dr. Davidheiser on his future role as Superintendent of Lower Moreland School District, and noted his legacy of excellence during his tenure at Central Bucks.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Next Meeting: September 12, 2018