

**CENTRAL BUCKS SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Curriculum Committee Minutes**  
**August 17, 2016**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sharon Collopy, Chair  
Karen Smith, Member  
Dennis Weldon, Member

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS AND ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Beth Darcy  
Glenn Schloeffel  
Scott Berger  
Mr. John Kopicki  
Dr. Scott Davidheiser  
Dr. David Bolton

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Jerel Wohl

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The meeting minutes from the June 8, 2016 meeting were reviewed and approved without changes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at the meeting.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. **Supplemental textbook adoption** – Mr. Scott Berger, District Social Studies and Library Supervisor, presented the novel *Flags of Our Fathers*, by James Bradley, for possible adoption. This text, regarding World War II, supports the 10<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies curriculum and will enhance classroom discussion and student understanding. Ms. Collopy asked if the violence in the book required parental consent. Mr. Weldon stated that he has read the book and the content is appropriate for high school students. Mr. Berger informed the committee that a parent notification letter will be sent home with all students who are asked to read this novel. The committee recommends that this supplemental text be sent to the full Board at the September 13, 2016 meeting.
2. **Bucks County Intermediate Unit (IU #22) presentation** – Ms. JoAnn Perotti, Director of Strategic Services for the Bucks County Intermediate Unit, presented a comprehensive review of the services provided by our local Intermediate Unit. Support services for Special Education, comprehensive planning, curriculum review, and professional development were highlighted and discussed. Mr. Kopicki, District Superintendent, thanked Ms. Perotti for her report and commented on the numerous important resources that the IU provides to the district throughout the year. Mr. Schloeffel asked for a list of services provided by the Intermediate Unit that would include an audit of those currently being utilized in Central Bucks. Ms. Perotti will provide that listing for the Board.
3. **Student Assistant Program (SAP)** – Dr. Scott Davidheiser, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education, provided an overview of the SAP services present at each school in the district. Every school in the state must have a SAP team that provides appropriate counseling and support services to students who experience problems related to the use of drugs, alcohol, and dangerous controlled substances. This team also provides support for students in the area of mental wellness.

Teams of teachers, administrators, and support personnel meet regularly to review student information. Referrals for service can be made by any individual and these teams then gather information and present the findings to the parents and student. If appropriate, additional confidential supports are offered to the family through The Council of Southeast Pennsylvania. Ms. Smith asked about the Council and for clarification regarding the process for sharing information with parents. She also asked if the building teams had enough time and what happens to the cases that do not lead to an assessment by the Council. Dr. Davidheiser responded that teams determine their own meeting schedule and they strongly encourage families to participate, but it is not mandatory. The child study process is an option when families do not take advantage of the Council's services.

4. **Advanced Placement (AP) Scores** – Dr. Davidheiser presented data on student performance on the 2016 Advanced Placement tests. The number of students enrolled in AP classes (4,299) and taking an AP exam (2,674) continue to grow across the district. 85% of students received a score of 3, 4, or 5 (5-point scale) which provides course credit at many colleges and universities. The district AP Equity plus Excellence score of 43% was a particular point of pride. This number indicates the percent of Central Bucks seniors who scored a 3 or better on at least one AP exam during their high school career. Mr. Schloeffel encouraged us to continue to push our students academically and encourage more AP participation in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Ms. Darcy commented on the number of AP courses we offer compared to other high performing school districts. Dr. Davidheiser stated that the district has added an additional course for this year (AP Computer Science Principles) and is looking at the possibility of adding additional courses in the future. Ms. Collopy asked for the data by school and Dr. Davidheiser will provide that information to the Board.
5. **Process for sending transcripts to college** – Dr. David Bolton, Superintendent for Elementary Education, provided an overview of the process students follow to request transcripts for colleges they are applying to. Students first complete their college application and then complete the Transcript Request Form that is available on each guidance website. That form must be submitted for each college and includes a parent signature for students who are not yet 18 years of age. Dr. Bolton reported that the district will be piloting an electronic submittal of this form at Central Bucks West. Ms. Smith asked why students are charged for each request and Ms. Collopy expressed concern regarding the three-week turnaround time and transcript requests not being accepted until the second week of school. A related concern was shared on behalf of a parent regarding students receiving their high school schedules the week before school starts. The parent is concerned that students cannot properly prepare for their academics without knowledge of when each class will be held. Dr. Davidheiser will speak with the guidance coordinators about these issues.
6. **Update on Weighting of courses in 9<sup>th</sup> grade** – Dr. Bolton reported that courses in English, Science, Social Studies, Algebra 2 and Pre-Calculus are being developed. Each core curricular area has begun work on the new 9<sup>th</sup> grade Honors courses that will be available for the 2017-2018 school year. He expects that presentations on each course will be ready for the Curriculum Committee in February or March, 2017.

7. **Update on Elementary Math Pilot** – Dr. Bolton informed the committee that Mr. Rich Kratz, District Math Supervisor, has begun work with a team of teachers from each grade level (K-6) on reviewing Math materials. Materials from at least 9 programs will be investigated to determine which programs will be piloted during the 2017-2018 school year. Dr. Bolton also shared that a committee of teachers met this summer to develop additional resources to be used in teaching the traditional algorithms in subtraction, multiplication, and division. These materials complement the Everyday Math materials and will be utilized throughout the district beginning this school year.
  
8. **Update on Elementary Report Card** – Dr. Bolton reported that the 43 members of the report card committee met in June and had a successful first meeting. This group consists of parents, teachers, Board members, and administrators. The first meeting consisted of determining the components of the ‘perfect’ report card and evaluating samples from other districts. The committee will continue to meet twice a month until a recommendation is made to the Board. The expectation is that the proposal will be ready by February or March, 2017. Input will then be sought from the entire district community on the new document.

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, September 14, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. - Board Room at 16 Welden Drive