

CENTRAL BUCKS SCHOOL DISTRICT
Curriculum Committee Notes
March 11, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT

John Gamble, Chairperson
Jerel Wohl, Member

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS AND ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Paul Faulkner	Dr. David Weitzel	Dale Scafuro
Geri McMullin	Dr. David Bolton	
Tyler Tomlinson	Dr. Nancy Silvius	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Kelly Unger

PUBLIC COMMENT

Max Rose, Joanne Atwell, Sara Huskin and Keith Cianfrani commented on the English proficiency standardized test requirements for placement of foreign exchange students. Nancy Santacecilia commented on various topics concerning 9th grade including weighted grades for courses, the impact on GPA and number of elective courses.

PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES

There were no changes

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

Comprehensive Plan for Special Education—Mrs. Scafuro presented an overview of the Special Education portion of the District Comprehensive Plan. The Plan is required by the state every three years. The Special Education plan must be posted publically for at least 28 days and is due to the State by May 15, 2015. The Plan includes information on enrollment, non-resident students oversight, incarcerated students oversight, least restricted environment, behavior support services, strengths, highlights, and intensive interagency/ensuring FAPE/hard to place students. The remainder of the report includes specifics regarding the programs in each school. The report has been posted on the District website and the Board will be asked to approve the report at the April 28, 2015 meeting.

Retention of School Records—Mrs. Scafuro informed the Committee that the District is required to keep ‘directory information’ on students for 99 years. The district currently has 30,500 records that are in paper form or on microfiche and need to be stored electronically. Ricoh has the capability to convert these records into PDF documents that would then be searchable. The cost for this service is \$25,303 and would be a one-time cost.

Revised Policy 235—Student Rights/Responsibilities (pre-deliberation)—Dr. Silvius reviewed for the committee that according to a recommendation from PDE present Policy 235 on Students Right/Responsibilities should be updated to include a listing of responsibilities and information on surveys of students should be removed from this policy and be written into a separate policy—Policy 231.1. This policy will move to the next Board meeting for consideration.

New Policy 235.1—Surveys (pre-deliberation)—PDE has recommended that guidelines on conducting surveys of students should be written into a new policy—Policy 231.1. Some information on surveys was in previous Policy 235. Guidelines on parents requesting to review the survey and how to opt their child out if they so desire are included in this policy. Mrs. Scafuro clarified the state law that parents still retain their parental rights to review the survey notice and to inspect it for their child who has reached eighteen years old. This policy will move to the next Board meeting for consideration.

Revised Policy 239—Foreign Exchange Students (pre-deliberation)—This policy is revised to show the change in the required English proficiency test which has been the Secondary Level English Proficiency (SLEP) test. This test has been discontinued by ETS. This policy revision will list the test required by the district to be the one recommended by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel. Additional information states that the district requires a score of High Intermediate or Advanced on the English proficiency test in order to be approved. Various board members commented on strong support for the proficiency test and that it is an objective rather than subjective measure. A board member noted that English proficiency is a requirement of the J-1 visa which exchange students must have. This policy will move to the next Board meeting for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next scheduled meeting is April 15, 2015

ADJOURNMENT

Notes submitted by Dr. Nancy Silvious, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education