

CENTRAL BUCKS SCHOOL DISTRICT
Curriculum Committee Notes
October 14, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jerel Wohl, Member
Kelly Unger, Member

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS AND ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Steve Corr	Dr. David Weitzel	Laura E’Nama
Paul Faulkner	Dr. David Bolton	Maryanne Canales,
Joe Jagelka	Dr. Nancy Silvious	Coordinator of School Nurses
Tyler Tomlinson	Corinne Sikora	

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

John Gamble, Chairperson

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment

PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES

There were no changes

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

Course of Study for Grade 8 Science: Patterns of Matter, Motion, Space Systems and Life—Laura E’Nama, Supervisor of K-12 Science, presented the revisions to the Grade 8 science course of study. Four units of study on forces and motion, chemical interactions, astronomy and human biology remain in the course with some revisions. The topics of pH, work and machines, and movement of fluid mechanics will move to the 9th grade course. A greater emphasis on identifying patterns in space and our solar system will be included in grade 8 as well as extending the human body unit to include the nervous, endocrine and immune systems. There is a greater emphasis in designing relevant rigorous lessons that will engage students in the process of scientific inquiry.

Textbook for Grade 8 Science—Laura E’Nama presented the four resource books from cK-12 Foundation that are being requested for the revised Grade 8 Science course. This foundation provides free fully customizable, online texts, called flexbooks. Each one includes text, images, videos, and interactives to help illustrate the curriculum. Science teachers have been piloting cK-12 materials for approximately five years with great success. Flexbooks can be accessed from any computer, tablet or mobile device. They are free to download and print. Students will have access online and each middle school will have a class set of bound paper editions. Because of the spiraling nature of our science curriculum, i.e., exposing students to physical, earth and life science and chemistry topics with increasing complicity in each grade, traditional texts are not usable. They tend to focus on one discipline and do not cover all the content in the 8th grade curriculum. Teachers who piloted cK-Flexbooks have seen the importance of online flexibility with audios, videos and interactives and the ability to customize.

Mrs. E’Nama explained that teachers cannot track the actual amount of time students were accessing the online resources of cK-12 other than through online assignments that are completed. Dr. Weitzel added that computer access points and bandwidth are always being reviewed for capacity of need.

Presentation of Policy 819-Suicide Awareness Prevention and Response—Corinne Sikora shared with Board members a new policy on youth suicide prevention and response that was developed following guidelines of Act 71. This law requires school entities to: 1) adopt a youth suicide awareness and prevention policy; and 2) provide four hours of professional development on youth suicide awareness and prevention for professional educators in schools serving students in grades 6-12 every five years. Mrs. Sikora explained that Central Bucks already had most of the elements in place that are now written into this policy. The professional development requirement will be satisfied through an online module via Safe Schools.

Parent Positive Speaker Series—Corinne Sikora reminded Board members of the school district partnerships with CB Cares, Doylestown Health and Central Bucks YMCA which are sponsoring the Parent Positive Speaker Series for the 2015-2016 school year. Most of the events are being held at Lenape Middle School because of its central location in the community.

Discussion of PDE request to have NARCAN available in our high school health offices—Dr. Weitzel and Maryanne Canales, Coordinator of School Nurses, discussed purchasing NARCAN for the high school health offices. Dr. Susan Kressley advised that the dosage is available nasally or by injection. A Board member asked if there are any adverse considerations if NARCAN should be administered to a student by a school nurse for a suspected opioid reaction and this was not the causal factor. Mrs. Canales explained that there are no adverse reactions should this occur. Another question focused on what NARCAN actually does to the patient. Mrs. Canales explained that NARCAN counteracts the effects of opioids. The patient starts to wake up, starts breathing again and that it is a rapidly acting drug. Dr. Kressley would issue a standing order for NARCAN to be available to high school health offices. Mr. Corr suggested that the order include middle schools also. Training will occur with school nurses, staff nurses and substitute nurses.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next scheduled meeting is November 11, 2015

ADJOURNMENT

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