

CENTRAL BUCKS SCHOOL DISTRICT
Curriculum Committee Notes
June 8, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS AND ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT

Beth Darcy
Paul Faulkner
Glenn Schloeffel
Meg Evans
Dr. David Bolton
Laura E'Nama

MEMBERS MISSING

Jerel Wohl, Member

PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES

The meeting notes from the May 18, 2016 meeting were reviewed and approved without changes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Gayle Sutterlin spoke about the importance of student involvement in Science fairs and research clubs.

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

- a. **Science Fair for Middle School Science** – Ms. Laura E'Nama, district Science Coordinator, spoke about the changes to the Middle Level Curriculum and their impact on Science Fairs. Change for 8th grade students include: Google Science Fair will no longer be required since the competition provides no feedback to the students or teachers. The curriculum will continue to include the Science project that is currently completed. In addition, one of the current Core Assessments has been adjusted to include more technical writing. The department is currently developing a new Honors Science course for 9th grade and the inclusion of an additional research opportunity is being considered. This course will be available for the 2017-2018 school year. Discussion continued regarding the current differences between schools in regards to outside Science competitions.
- b. **Creation of Honors Courses in 9th grade** – Dr. Bolton reported on the possibility of including Honors World Language courses. Stacy Gray, district World Language Coordinator, does not recommend developing honors courses in 9th grade because of the anticipated impact on French offerings. The concern is that students will not be able to schedule French classes due to having fewer sections available and that Spanish will become the only viable language at the Middle Level. Ms. Collopy asked how many advanced students are currently taking French in grade 8.
- c. **Music Scheduling at the High School Level** - A brief overview was again provided by Dr. Bolton. An additional conversation will be scheduled for a later meeting. Ms. Collopy asked for additional possible solutions that would allow music students more A/B options at the high school level.
- d. **Departmentalization at the Elementary Level** – Dr. Bolton provided an overview of the evaluation process he followed over the past two school years. This included conversations with individual teachers, grade levels, and all principals regarding practices utilized in the past and their recommendations moving forward. It also included review of research on best practices in this area. Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, individual buildings will determine their level of departmentalization within certain parameters. Science and Social Studies in grades 4-6 may be considered for departmentalization. The current Math structure in grades 5 and 6 also includes some departmentalization and will remain unchanged. There will be no departmentalization in grades K-3. Board members expressed their appreciation for some movement in this area and asked for study to continue on this topic.

- e. **Home Education Parents** – Dr. Bolton reported that all current home education parents have been informed of the upcoming policy changes being considered by the Board.
- f. **Water at Warwick Elementary** – Dr. Bolton provided an update on the additional water testing that was completed at Warwick and the remediation plans for the two water sources whose lead content was found to be above the action threshold. Communication will continue with the Department of Health and Warwick families on this topic.

ADJOURNMENT

Notes submitted by Dr. David Bolton, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education