

## CENTRAL BUCKS SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Curriculum Committee Meeting

February 14, 2018

#### Committee Members Present

Mr. Dennis Weldon

Mrs. Beth Darcy

Mrs. Jodi Schwartz

Mr. John Kopicki, Superintendent

Dr. David Bolton, Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Scott Davidheiser, Assistant Superintendent

#### Committee Members Absent

Mrs. Sharon Collopy, Chairperson

#### Others in Attendance

Mr. Glenn Schloeffel, Board President

Dr. Nicole Young, Board Member

Dr. J. Luke Hadfield, House Principal - East

Mrs. Stacy Gray, World Language Coordinator

Mr. Richard Kratz, Curriculum Supervisor - Mathematics

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Mr. Weldon

Mr. Weldon called for a moment of silence in reflection and respect for the lives lost in the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

#### REVIEW OF MEETING NOTES

The January 10, 2018 Curriculum Committee Meeting minutes were reviewed and approved without changes.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

#### RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL:

Dr. Davidheiser introduced Mrs. Stacy Gray, who will present three different courses of study and textbook recommendations for adoption.

#### Proposed Courses of Study: Spanish II; French IV; French IV Honors:

Mrs. Gray began with a recommendation for a Spanish II class. She reviewed the standards for World Languages, which are national standards from ACTFL – American Council of Teachers of Foreign Languages. Mrs. Gray noted that there are no Pennsylvania standards, CB language courses follow the ACTFL strands entitled “Communities”, “Communication”, “Culture”, “Connections” and “Comparisons”. This Spanish II course is the second course in the academic Spanish course sequence. She noted that along with vocabulary, culture is emphasized in language courses. There will be six units in this course of study, including unique Spanish-speaking cultures other than Spain and Mexico. The final exam grade will be 20% of the student’s overall grade, and includes sections on reading, speaking, listening, writing and culture. Mrs. Schwartz asked if the same exam rubrics were used across every class, Mrs. Gray stated they were the same. The recommended textbook is Espanol by Santillana, which was implemented for Spanish I last September. The Spanish II textbook has the option to access all resources online. Mrs. Gray noted that the online resources are excellent for this textbook. Teachers will have a set of hardback texts in case there is a problem with accessing online resources. Teachers and students will access course materials through Canvas. This textbook was chosen after two rounds of presentations by five publishers. Mrs. Gray remarked that a strong tech department was important in the decision regarding a publisher. Middle and High School Spanish teachers had a trial period where

## CENTRAL BUCKS SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Curriculum Committee Meeting

February 14, 2018

they could go online and explore the options offered by the publishers. The teachers were then asked to rate the different publishers. The course does align with the AP curriculum.

Mrs. Gray presented details for a recommended French IV class. The course of study is based on the resources in the Bien Dit series by Holt that were implemented in French I in 2015. This course is comprised of chapters, rather than strands. Mrs. Gray presented a copy of the Level 3 Bien Dit textbook, which includes online resources. Chapters 6-10 of the textbook will be used for the French IV class. Similarly to the Spanish II class, unique French-speaking countries are covered. This final exam will be 20% of the student's overall grade, as are the final exams in all other language courses.

A French III Honors course was approved last fall, and will be implemented in the fall of 2018. The same textbook will be used in the proposed French IV Honors course – there is so much content in the textbook that French III Honors teachers were unable to utilize all of it. Elements from the textbook will be spread between French III Honors and French IV Honors, the most difficult concepts used for French IV Honors class. The French IV Honors course will align more closely with the AP rubrics than the academic course, and includes more vocabulary, more difficult reading selections and in-depth grammar. A major focus of the class will be comparing French-speaking and English-speaking cultures. The final exam includes the same elements as academic classes (reading, speaking, listening, writing and culture), but because this is an Honors class there are also grammar and vocabulary assessments.

Mrs. Darcy asked for information on enrollment for Spanish and French classes. Mrs. Gray noted that last year there were 1200 Spanish I students, and that French I enrollment was about 60-65% of that. Mr. Schloeffel inquired about enrollment for Chinese classes, Dr. Davidheiser stated there were two programs at CB East and CB West, which include both Level 1 and Level 2 courses. There are approximately two sections per school per level, each including about 15 students. Changes in the SAT vocabulary pieces have slightly affected enrollment in Latin classes, sections in both levels are maintained at all three high schools. Discussion was held regarding German classes, which are no longer offered in the district. Dr. Kopicki noted that enrollment in German courses had been small but consistent, and there has been very preliminary discussion regarding the expansion of language courses offered in the district. Dr. Davidheiser commented that the district is following national trends, meeting parent/student demands for focus on STEM courses. Mrs. Darcy remarked that she believed it was important the district continue to offer both STEM and foreign language courses, noting that most colleges require at least three years of a foreign language. She would love to see a broader course selection of foreign languages, and believes a district like CB should be able to offer a wide variety of courses in support of our student's interests – no matter the class size.

### **INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/UPDATES:**

#### **Intermediate Math Concepts (IMC) – Name Change (Algebra 3/TRG) and NCAA Notification:**

Dr. Davidheiser provided some information on the name change for the Intermediate Math Concepts (IMC) course. He noted the name change was due in large part to NCAA regulations regarding student athletes. The NCAA flagged the IMC course, not due to content but to title. The current course curriculum meets NCAA requirements, but since a name change was necessary it was decided that the course would be reviewed by the District for any improvements that could be made. Mr. Kratz provided details on the name change and curriculum revisions and noted that he will present a new textbook in the spring for the Committee's review. Curriculum changes will be provided for review in August. Dr. Davidheiser and Mr. Kratz believe the renamed course will be approved by the NCAA since content is not an issue. Mrs. Schwartz asked for clarification that the curriculum would be presented only a month before the fall semester began, Dr. Davidheiser noted there is typically a Curriculum Committee meeting in early August before a late August full board meeting. Curriculum reviews for the upcoming fall semester are done at that time. Mr. Weldon asked if there were any other courses that would need a

## CENTRAL BUCKS SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Curriculum Committee Meeting

February 14, 2018

pre-emptive review for compliance with NCAA regulations, Mr. Kratz indicated there were no other math courses that he was concerned about. Dr. Davidheiser noted that he does not foresee any issues with any other courses as the district curriculum standards are well above NCAA criteria.

#### **Update on Elementary Math Pilot:**

Mr. Kratz provided an update on the Elementary Math Pilot program. There are two different programs being piloted: Go Math! and Math in Focus. Pilot programs are split between buildings so there is only one pilot program being offered in the school. Four full-day training sessions for teachers have been provided free of charge by the companies of each pilot program. Mr. Kratz shared feedback received from teachers, parents and students regarding each program. He also provided data on teacher, parent and student surveys. There will be a final teacher training and teacher data collection in June, as well as an end of the year Teacher, Parent and Student survey. Data collected from the final surveys as well as PSSA testing will be reviewed in July, and a materials recommendation will be presented to the Board in August. Dr. Kopicki questioned why PSSA data would be used to compare the two pilot programs. He noted that information from Mr. Kratz would carry more weight for him than PSSA data. Mr. Kratz commented that he wanted to provide as many sources of data as possible to make the best decision regarding the choice of program. Mrs. Schwartz asked if the special education population had been included in the surveys, Mr. Kratz noted that they have been included with specific intent to not separate their input. Mr. Kratz can identify classroom origin of the survey answers and will be sharing the data collected with special education teachers. Dr. Young commented that with the qualitative data being so close, she felt the inclusion of PSSA data would be helpful. Mr. Kratz noted that the chosen program would be implemented in the 2019-2020 school year, there will be training for the new program during the coming school year. He commented that all data shows that both programs are very good, and the district is fortunate to be able to choose between two such strong contenders.

#### **Special Olympics Interscholastic Unified Track & Field:**

Dr. Luke Hadfield presented information on a unified sports program being piloted at CB East. He noted that his wife is an elementary principal in the Souderton School District, where this program is strong. The unified sports program brings regular education and special education students together to participate on a sport team. The Souderton program includes track and field as well as indoor Bocce. CB East will be piloting the program with track and field. The program can have a minimum of 12 and maximum of 30 participants, with an ideal mix of 50% special education and 50% regular education students. The program is held after school and all students need to have physicals and required consent forms completed. Special Olympics will be providing equipment required for the shot put and the mini javelin events and will pay for team uniforms. Special Olympics also provides a \$1500 stipend to pay for advisors. There are regional and state competitions for the unified sports teams, 120 high schools in Pennsylvania currently participate in the program. CB will provide transportation to other participating schools for events. Mr. Schloeffel asked if there were any community sponsors, Dr. Hadfield noted there could be, but that option has not been explored yet. Mrs. Darcy asked if students could participate if they were already on the East Track & Field team, Dr. Hadfield noted that students could not participate in the unified sports program if they were already playing a sport that season. Dr. Davidheiser stated that East is spearheading the program, expansion to the other high schools would be considered based on the success at East. He anticipates great response to the program, leading to full teams at all three high schools. A report to the Committee will be given at the end of this first season at East.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** March 14, 2018