

CENTRAL BUCKS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Curriculum Committee Meeting

March 14, 2018

Committee Members Present

Mrs. Sharon Collopy, Chairperson
Mrs. Beth Darcy, Member
Mrs. Jodi Schwartz, Member
Mr. Dennis Weldon, Member

Dr. David Bolton, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Scott Davidheiser, Assistant Superintendent

Others in Attendance

Mrs. Karen Smith, Board Member
Ms. Angela Hendershot,
District Health & Physical Education Coordinator
Ms. Christine Cochran, Teacher – CB East
Mr. Andy Durie, Teacher – Buckingham Elementary
Ms. Brenda Scheffey, Teacher – Tamanend Middle School
Ms. Lisa Corr, Guidance Coordinator – CB West
Ms. Laura Ladley, Guidance Coordinator – CB South
Mr. George Moustakas, Guidance Coordinator – CB East

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Mrs. Collopy.

REVIEW OF MEETING NOTES

The February 14, 2018 Curriculum Committee Meeting minutes were reviewed and approved without changes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

INFORMATION ITEM:

Overview of Health and Physical Education Curriculum K-12: Dr. Bolton introduced Ms. Angela Hendershot, District Health & Physical Education Coordinator, who will give an overview of the program. Ms. Hendershot noted the CB Health & Physical Education program is designed to teach students the skills, knowledge, and attitudes essential to live a healthy lifestyle. The program meets the National Association for Sport and Physical Education standards. Ms. Hendershot reviewed the elementary Health curriculum, which is taught by school nurses, classroom teachers and Health & Physical Education (H&PE) teachers.

Mr. Durie presented components of the elementary Physical Education curriculum. He noted there were 9 strands in the curriculum, with a goal to develop a strong foundation for fitness, exercise and problem-solving. Activities often incorporate information being covered in regular classrooms, such as the use of spelling words or math problems that become part of the physical activity. Mr. Durie remarked that the types of activities students participate in are less focused on physical abilities and more focused on being good team members and problem-solvers. He believes it lessens student anxiety about sport performance. He reviewed Elementary Field Days, where students learn to compete in a healthy way during a variety of activities. Mr. Durie spoke about community events such as Family Fun Fitness nights, Bike Safety taught by AAA, and a program on cyber-bullying provided by NOVA. He noted that technology has become a wonderful tool for class, and detailed the many ways it can be utilized.

Ms. Brenda Scheffey reviewed the components of the middle school Physical Education curriculum. She noted that different types of activities like “Team-Building”, “Synchronized Yoga” and “Blind-folded Walk” allow students to experience success, even if they are not good at traditional sports. Students can monitor their heart rate during class with the use of “smart” watches. Ms. Scheffey spoke about the

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four units covered in the curriculum: Social and Emotional Wellness, Substance Abuse, Human Growth and Development and Personal Wellness and Safety. She reviewed the different types of community involvement, including NOVA, Dr. Smith from Doylestown Hospital, A Women's Place, and NAMI.

Ms. Cochran spoke about highlights of the high school Physical Education program, including the eight different classes available to students. The Physical Education/Health class is a required class, typically taken in tenth grade. The seven other elective classes are designed to appeal to all different types of students, to encourage healthy lifestyles and increased personal fitness. Many health professionals from Doylestown Hospital come to speak with students about their careers.

Mrs. Darcy remarked on the wide subject area that needs to be covered on the wellness side of the program, and asked for feedback from the H&PE teachers. Ms. Hendershot noted that standards are always being revised to ensure every student receives the instruction they need. Dr. Davidheiser commented that some subjects can be covered in Advisory at the secondary level. Mrs. Darcy also asked for feedback regarding the new middle school scheduling. Ms. Scheffey commented that she felt the new scheduling was very helpful in allowing her to give more in-depth instruction. Mrs. Smith asked about covering Cyber-Bullying, Dr. Davidheiser noted it was addressed during the Integrated Technology course and during Advisory. Mr. Weldon and Mrs. Schwartz commented on the exciting variety of instruction offered, and Mr. Weldon noted he was happy to see that the new technology was utilized to support activity and not replace it.

RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL:

Health and Physical Education Courses of Study - Grades 7, 8 and 9: Dr. Davidheiser remarked that the seventh-ninth grade H&PE curriculum was expanded due to the changes to the middle school schedule. The H&PE course of study was reviewed for opportunities that could be provided to students given the new schedule. Ms. Hendershot and Ms. Scheffey provided details regarding the proposed courses, noting that middle school is the time to build upon skills learned at the elementary level and to teach the application of those skills. Students completing the courses will participate in a variety of activities in physical education with emphasis placed on fitness, its components, and their relationship to activity. Health education provides students with the knowledge of skills necessary to confront health related experiences to make a smooth transition into adolescence. Substance abuse, personal safety, social and emotional wellness and human growth and development will be part of the curriculum. Mrs. Schwartz noted that vaping is covered at the ninth-grade level and asked if it should be addressed at a younger age. Ms. Scheffey commented that there has already been discussion about moving the topic to an earlier grade level. Mrs. Schwartz asked if information was covered regarding eating disorders, Dr. Davidheiser remarked that students learn about nutrition and eating disorders in several different classes including Family & Consumer Science, Science classes and H&PE. Mrs. Smith asked if, during the Emotional Wellness portion of ninth-grade study, students were given direction on who to contact if they needed help. Ms. Hendershot noted that resources for assistance were covered in that section. Dr. Davidheiser noted the Student Assistance Program (SAP) was very active, teams are recognizing students in need and referring them to appropriate resources.

The Committee agrees to move the proposed Health and Physical Education Middle School courses of study to full board for approval.

INFORMATION ITEM:

College Application Process: Dr. Davidheiser introduced Guidance Coordinators Ms. Lisa Corr (CB West), Ms. Laura Ladley (CB South) and Mr. George Moustakas (CB East). The Guidance Coordinators gave a presentation on the college application process, noting there were many pieces to each of the complicated steps. There are about 1600 students that go through the process each year, and guidance counselors work hard to ensure the students have all the information and assistance they need to complete their applications. Ms. Corr detailed the evolution of the application process for students in Central Bucks, including preparation of resumes, submission of scores, gathering letters of recommendation and payment of fees. A review was presented of the Naviance software system, which is used for electronic transcript requests, career explorations and planning, college searches and data analysis (Scattergrams). Document submittals and transmissions are tracked through Naviance, and guidance counselors use it for individualized college planning for students. Prior to the 2017-2018 school year, a paper Transcript Request Form was submitted by the student to the guidance office for each school they wanted a transcript sent to. For the 2017-2018 school year, CB converted to the Naviance system. After signing a release, students can electronically request transcript submissions to multiple schools.

Ms. Ladley reviewed the preparation done for converting to the Naviance system and the steps taken to inform students and parents about the new process. She presented details on some of the issues that came up during the conversion and how they were successfully addressed. A step-by-step application guide prepared by the Guidance Coordinators for students was reviewed. Mr. Moustakas noted that the overall experience with Naviance was positive. He provided details on research done with 26 colleges, representing those typically applied to by CB students. Information was requested on application procedures and submission dates, and results showed that submission of applications prior to September 1 did not increase a student's chances for acceptance. The Code of Ethics and Professional Practices of the National Association for College Admission Counseling mandates that October 15 is the earliest deadline colleges may require first-year candidates to submit an application for fall admission. Mr. Moustakas noted the goal of the Guidance Department is to provide students and families with all the information they need to make decisions about their personal application process.

Mrs. Collopy inquired why fifteen days were still required for the electronic transcript request, and if the Release of Records Authorization process could be an electronic process rather than a paper process. Mr. Moustakas noted the authorization form can be printed, signed, scanned and emailed to the guidance office. Mrs. Collopy encouraged the use of Advisory time to task students with getting the form signed and returned, commenting that any item that can be completed early makes the application process easier. Ms. Corr remarked that the issue of the 15-day turnaround time has more to do with gathering recommendations than submitting transcripts. Each counselor has between 250-350 students, most of whom request recommendations be submitted with their transcripts. Those that are only requesting transcripts often have the process completed within a day or two. Guidance counselors take care to personalize the recommendation letters, which must be submitted at the same time the transcripts are sent. That process takes a little more time, and counselors have never missed a deadline. Special rush circumstances are always taken into consideration.

Mrs. Collopy asked for verification that students applying to Penn State can request transcripts when they apply on September 1 – even though information presented tonight seemed to indicate that requests cannot be submitted until early September. Mrs. Corr noted that students can submit their requests on September 1 and they will be processed as soon as counselors return to school. Students

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will benefit from waiting until they are back in school and can meet with their guidance counselors, who will then be able to assist them through the entire complex process. Mrs. Collopy stated that she hoped the issues Naviance had this year will be fully resolved so that CB students, who return to school later than students in other parts of the country, will not have issues submitting their applications.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Next Meeting: April 11, 2018