

Minutes C & I Meeting

October 17, 2007

Present: Barbara Garrity, Mary Hartnett, Karen Strickland, Barbara Duncan, Mary Beth Currie, Ray Tai (by telephone), Randy Westrol (for beginning of meeting)

1. Mr. Westrol followed up on a previous discussion to establish a Schedule B position for Boys Lacrosse. This year there would be no cost. The funding would come from the parent group and would include start up costs for transportation, referees, uniforms, and initiation fees to the Shore Conference, which would be about \$14,000 to \$15,000. In subsequent years the school district will absorb the costs. Creating the Lacrosse team is advantageous to the district because it evens off our number of male/female teams, giving us 13 of each. Also, we can be attractive to students who would go to private schools in order to play Lacrosse.

The spring season begins on March 7.

2. Exemption for Honors/AP Students—after discussing, we decided that we should stand by our original decision. We considered the students' request to create a committee but sentiment on the curriculum committee was that the exemption from an exam was a privilege for students who had demonstrated superior accomplishment and understanding of a course. "A" students who are seniors could be exempt from the final exam. All other students should take the exam. We discussed advantages of taking the exam:

- opportunity for students to review everything done and demonstrate conceptual understanding;
- benefit to taking exam and getting practice to prepare for college;
- opportunity to raise grade to an "A". We don't want to deprive students of any chance to improve their grades; and,
- we don't want to encourage mediocrity at any level.

3. We accepted an addendum to the film curriculum which is a list of movies the class uses. Some movies are R rated, however, only selected clips will be used. The list has been reviewed by Mary Beth Currie and found to be acceptable.

4. AP Exam results are in. The World Language and math tests had passing ratios of 78%. Social Sciences exams had a passing rate of 88%. The sciences had a passing rate of 93% and English had a passing rate of 100%.

Questions for further consideration: Why so few took world language exam? Only 49 students took the exam. How many are taking classes? Identify the ratio of number taking the class versus number taking the exam and reasons why. Should we survey the students? Further suggestion - Survey last year's seniors to see how they are dealing with college. Follow up with students to see how well they felt that Holmdel prepared them for the college experience? Recommendations for studying, organizing their time? How can we improve a la Mayor Koch, "How am I doing?"

5. State Testing Results: Mary Beth Currie shared results and will present graphs to the community.

At every grade level more of our math students are advanced proficient than are our language arts students. This will inform our instruction and we will continue investigating how to best use this information. Susan Alston will analyze HSPA writing samples for further investigation.

In addition, Ms. Currie demonstrated that we now have the ability to track one student over time. She will continue analyzing test results.

6. Introduction to Organic Chemistry: Mrs. Blaha at the High School recommended we offer a new course in organic chemistry. We have students who have completed all the classes we offer, so this course would be another option. This would be a follow up course for students who are interested in chemistry but don't qualify for honors level classes. The cost would be about \$15,000 as start up costs. Glassware and texts will be one time cost. We recommend approval contingent on budget.

7. The Satz School Library media specialist found materials online that were free that support our science and health curriculums. The NIH curriculum supplements show how these materials match the NJ Core Curriculum standards. The media specialist downloaded the materials and will have them available for the teachers to use after C & I approves. The media specialist and Ms. Currie observed and feel they are appropriate supports for the curriculum.

8. Donations: see agenda

9. Music program at Indian Hill—Some parents expressed concern with the cost of required materials, i.e. costume, report, and diorama. Parents have been advised to raise the issue with the principal.

The question for C & I becomes what type of projects are teachers requesting from students and what type of burden would this project have on the parents?

10. Music: Who is supervising the fine arts area? What are the state requirements for fine arts? The Music Honor Society is being reactivated.

11. Graduation requirements: We are working on a plan to help us to become compliant by offering the appropriate number and type of courses for students to meet their state graduation requirements. The only area left to meet compliance is in performing arts. We are investigating issues of scheduling and costs in order to meet this mandate.