

Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting Notes

Wednesday, May 20, 2009 6:00 PM

Attending: Board Members - Ray Tai, Mary Hartnett, Ana Vander Woude, Michael Collins
Administrators - Mary Beth Currie, Barbara Duncan

Department Policy for World Language Acceleration:

We discussed formalizing department policy for world language acceleration. Some students' high level of achievement warrants that they move to a higher level in a course. Up until now, a rarely used informal department policy existed whereby students were able to move more quickly up in levels of a language after meeting certain conditions. The C&I Committee will continue discussing the criteria for skipping levels.

SAB Constitution:

The Student Advisory Board (SAB) has scheduled presentation on its Constitution for members on Wednesday, May 27, 2009. An SAB committee has been working on the Constitution and provided a copy to the Curriculum and Instruction Committee. It was suggested that the SAB Committee might consider including what the SAB's actual powers and responsibilities are, for example, its advisory capacity to the board of education.

Administrative Professional Development:

Our administrators will participate in collaborative professional development with other administrators throughout the state. The focus of the two day session will be "using the observation process as a professional development opportunity." We also will have two Administrative Professional Development Days in district.

The Standards Revision Process:

Mrs. Currie reviewed the "Understanding by Design" curriculum design/writing process and reviewed the Standards Revision Process that is taking place at the state level. Every Core Curriculum content Standard is undergoing revision. State adoption should take place this spring with dissemination of the revised standards and Professional Development scheduled for 2009-2010.

Honors English 3 Additional Summer Reading Selection:

The review process for summer reading is a continuous one and an effort is being made to balance the books and attract the interest levels of all students K-12. In line with this goal, a selection is being added to the Honors English 3 summer reading selections. It is A Bend in the River by V.S. Naipaul.

The Middle Majority:

A robust discussion was held concerning whether we are addressing the needs of the "middle" student here in Holmdel. There is strong concern among parents about this issue and whether students considered "average" are challenged to the same degree that higher level students are. The question was posed whether the NJASK and the HSPA good instruments by which to assess this issue. The administration may need to look at SAT data to try to answer these questions.

C&I meeting Dates:

Curriculum and Instruction will meet at 6:00 p.m. in the Central Office Conference Room on the following dates: June 17; July 22; August 19; September 23; October 21; November 11; and December 9.

Items for Approval:

Generous donations from the Erskine family, Anthony's Lawn and Landscaping, Emma Butler and the HCAA for many wonderful things have gone through the C&I Committee are on the board agenda for approval.

There is also a change in the name of the Advanced Web Design Course to Dynamic Web Application. The change is more reflective of what the course actually does.

Next Meeting: 6:00, 6/17/2009, Central Office Conference Room.