

## Curriculum and Instruction September 20, 2010

Attending: Board Members Pascucci, Liu, Wetmore, Vander Woude; Administrator Currie

### Items for Discussion/Reports:

#### **High School Scheduling**

Mr. Eric Swenson, Director of Guidance, joined the committee to discuss the process of addressing scheduling concerns and issues prior to the start of school in September. Mr. Swenson explained that guidance has an open session procedure whereby guidance counselors are in their offices for 4 days in late August. During this time students/parents are encouraged to address their scheduling concerns with the guidance staff. Counselors are also available to adjust any kinks in individual student's schedules. This process allows for students to have a final working schedule and avoids disruption to student and teacher schedules once instruction begins.

Mr. Swenson also discussed the process and procedure for scheduling students in a Language Arts Review course based on New Jersey Ask scores (8th grade). All freshman students who tested non-proficient or within the "at risk" range are scheduled to take this course in addition to a regular English 1 course. Mr. Swenson explained that all parents have the right not to agree to this placement. However, parents are required to sign a waiver. Parents are informed of this procedure and the waiver by a letter enclosed with the final schedule.

#### **On Line/ Hybrid Course/Financial Literacy**

Mr. Katz, Vice Principal of HHS/Mr. Cohen, Business teacher at HHS presented to the committee a proposal to offer a hybrid financial literacy course (part on-line/part in class) at the high school. Financial Literacy is a state mandated requirement for graduation. The recommendation for this course is to address the issue of 19 freshman music student's schedules that do not allow for scheduling of this course.

Mr. Cohen wrote the curriculum for the Financial Literacy Course. The on-line course will follow the same curriculum and have the same standards. Assessments and the final exam will be with the teacher. Blackboard is the software utilized for the on-line course and is at no cost to the district (free up to 5 courses). Mr. Cohen gave a power point presentation to the committee on the on-line course. The presentation was impressive and the committee agreed that this was a viable and innovative approach to the scheduling issue. However, the logistics of teacher/student instruction time needs to be addressed. Mr. Katz will return to the committee for further discussion.

#### **Dual Enrollment Course/HHS and Brookdale Community College**

Mr. Katz also presented a proposal for a dual enrollment course between HHS and Brookdale Community College. Any teacher at HHS with a Masters Degree in a specific content area, who wishes to teach such a course, must become an adjunct professor of BCC. The course will be taught at HHS and will be part of the student's regular schedule. The college level book and curriculum will be used to teach the course. Students will receive college credit. These courses are to provide an opportunity to those students at the HS who do not qualify for AP courses. The committee supports providing the most academic opportunities for the most students. Mr. Katz will return to the committee for further discussion.

#### **Items for Approval/Curriculum Guides**

Members of the committee reviewed the updated curriculum guides and support their approval.

**Donations**--the committee recommends approval with gratitude.

Submitted by: Phyllis Pascucci