

**Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment  
Board of Education Curriculum Committee Meeting  
Friday, November 13, 2015**

Members Present: Mr. Larry Greenstein Dr. Wafa Westervelt  
Ms. Nora Johnson Mr. William Hohausser (via phone)

Guests: Dr. Kathleen Mooney, Ms. Karen Sloan, Ms. Christine Nadolne

Community Members: Jennifer Mannion, Adrienne Saur, Lynn Steinberg, George Borda

Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 8:36a.m. by Curriculum Committee Chairperson, Larry Greenstein. The minutes from the October 16, 2015 meeting will be posted.

Dr. Westervelt presented a Power Point presentation on the new Social Studies Frameworks which are the new set of expectations in social studies and history from the New York State Education Department for K-12. The Frameworks are anchored in the 1998 NYS Learning Standards for Social Studies. The new Frameworks contain a blend of the older standards. A shift in how we teach social studies in K-8 will take place using the new Frameworks which were developed by New York State teachers for teachers. Common Core standards for literacy and writing are embedded in this new framework.

Three Shifts in Instructional Practices:

1. Focus on conceptual understandings. Shift away from facts and breadth of topics to concepts and content knowledge and depth within topics.
2. Foster student inquiry, collaboration and informed action. Teacher no longer disseminator of knowledge; more of a facilitator of investigation where students use multiple resources. Higher order thinking skills expected from students.
3. Integrate content and skills purposefully. Students now learn to read, discuss and write like social scientists. Students integrate and apply concepts, skills and content knowledge.

The Frameworks contain:

Ten Unifying Themes—introduced in kindergarten and continue through grade 12;  
Six Social Studies Practices (new)—same across all grade levels but spiral up in complexity;  
Eight-Ten key ideas per every grade level aligned to Frameworks;  
Two-seven conceptual understandings; and  
Content specifications (can be objectives of teacher lessons).

**The New York State Toolkit Project: [www.C3 teachers.org](http://www.C3teachers.org)**

Six Inquiries per grade level, all in same format. Three parts of inquiry—compelling and supporting questions; tasks; and sources. Inquiries are linked to grade-level key ideas and provide guidance for the teacher.

Professional Development for teachers in Online Integrated Social Studies/ELA Curriculum through Putnam BOCES. This is a great resource for teachers to use for the new Frameworks. Professional development has been offered both in-house and outside of the district. Additional professional development will continue to be offered to teachers/staff. On Superintendent Conference Day, 11/3/15, K-5 teachers came together by grade levels for articulation/collaboration opportunities on the Frameworks. Feedback was very positive.

### Comments/Concerns/Questions

1. Will textbooks still be used with these new multiple resources? Will an iPad suffice for a student to use instead?
2. Will current events be used more often with this new program?
3. If a student does not start their education with this new framework, will this be an issue to do this higher level of thinking?
4. Are AP US History and AP European History courses being revamped to be compatible with the new Frameworks?

Meeting adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

Next meeting: December 15, 2015