

**Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment  
Board of Education Curriculum Committee Meeting  
Friday, May 20, 2016**

Members Present: Ms. Nora Johnson, Ms. Christina Nadolne, Dr. Wafa Westervelt

Guests: Ms. Elizabeth Weisburd, Mrs. Karen Sloan

Community Members: George Borda, Natasha Bogbasa (sic), Cindy Moroney, Lynn Steinberg, Adrienne Saur

Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 8:34 a.m. by Ms. Nora Johnson since Curriculum Committee Chairperson Larry Greenstein was unable to attend the meeting. The minutes from the April 22, 2016, minutes were approved and will be posted. Dr. Westervelt discussed various goals/initiatives and the upcoming Superintendent's Conference Day, scheduled for May 27<sup>th</sup>.

Presentation

Dr. Westervelt stated that the goals of the curriculum committee for this school year have been achieved.

Superintendent Conference Day---May 27, 2016

Approximately 85 activities have been planned for staff. These activities were entered into My Learning Plan where the teachers register for them. The activities include a wide range of topics that support district initiatives, curriculum, and goals (i.e. writing/reading, modifications/updates of some curriculum, effectively dealing with students with sensory processing difficulties, the Calm and Connected educator, etc.).

ELA/Writing

1. Consultant K-2
  - In January, a consultant was brought in for the K-2 teachers to focus on writing instruction. This consultant is a highly trained expert from Teachers College. The ENL and reading teachers were also included in these trainings. This is a process on how teachers instruct student in process writing. The common understandings and language among grade levels is important. Some students enter school with little expressive language while others enter school with tremendous language skills. Next year, the grade 3-5 teachers will also be offered professional development in this area. Professional Development for teachers will address the needs of diverse learners; enrichment included.
2. Prompt v. Process Writing
  - Standard 10 in the Common Core: Writing over extended time frame which will allow time for more research, reflection and revision. Teachers conference with students, both enrichment and remediation. In prompt writing a student is given a prompt and a day or two to work on the writing activity. In process writing a student is given a longer period of time to focus and develop ideas on a topic the student selects. Students are taught to be more independent.
3. Google Docs Sharing
4. Weber: Rubrics for narrative, informative and argumentative for grades 6-8.

Text Type v. Genre (Common Core Standards)

1. Narrative
2. Explanatory/Informational

### 3. Opinion/Argumentative

#### 8 Steps of the Writing Process

- ✓ Immersion
- ✓ Generating
- ✓ Selecting
- ✓ Collecting
- ✓ Drafting
- ✓ Revising
- ✓ Editing
- ✓ Publishing

#### Units Focused on Writing

1. Teaching Point
2. Possible Anchor Charts/Student Handouts
  - CUPS=Capitalize letter, Understand, Punctuation, Spelling
  - Non-negotiables for writing—checklist for students
    - a. Name on all work and beginning with a capital letter
    - b. Date on all work
    - c. All words must have a space between them
    - d. Capital letters to begin all sentences
    - e. Punctuation must be at end of all sentences
    - f. Capitalize “I” when talking about yourself
    - g. Use your word walls to help you spell correctly
    - h. No random capitals in your sentences
    - i. My sentences make sense
3. Possible Modifications
4. Suggested Student Work (interactive and independent)

While visiting classrooms, Dr. Westervelt has observed non-fiction writing, narrative writing, opinion/argumentative writing, utilization of rubrics, sharing of writing, creativity in teaching writing (SHS Shakespearean sonnets), students using the language of writing, research and lots of excitement. Samples of student work from across the grade levels and content areas were available for viewing/reviewing.

#### STEM/STEAM

##### Elementary:

Examples of STEM Connection kits used: Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Tales, Animals and Habitats, Simple Machines, Early Asian Civilization and Natural Disasters.

Some of the STEM activities are Animal Studies, Building the tallest structure using gummy hearts and toothpicks, and Block Building Design and Construction.

##### STEM/STEAM Professional Development for Teachers: Sample list

Cradle of Aviation, NAO Robots, Dragster Competition, Science Olympiads Team, Math Olympiad, Technology Coding and STEM EdCamp, Robotics, Engineering, Car Repair, Autocad, STEM Competitions & clubs, Genetics, Forensics, 3D Printers, Python Computer Science Program, Math and Science Research activities, STEM activities through the TV studio/radio studio, STEM in the K-2 Classroom, STEM in the 3-5 Classroom, STEAM for K-8 Thinkers, and Digital Art.

##### STEM Design Process

ASK  
IMAGINE  
PLAN  
CREATE

TEST  
IMPROVE

Comments/Concerns/Questions

- Excellent presentation and commendations on the work being done
- How can we share with the community all the good work that is happening across the district other than the use of the website?
- Can more teachers write to parents to let them know what is going on in the writing curriculum?
- Is the writing consultant coming every year?

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Next meeting: June 17, 2016