

Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
Board of Education Curriculum Committee Meeting
Friday, June 17, 2016

Members Present: Mr. Larry Greenstein, Dr. Wafa Westervelt, Ms. Nora Johnson, &
Ms. Christina Nadolne

Guests: Ms. Elaine Fenick, Ms. Mary Callahan

Community Members: Elizabeth Weisburd, Emily Beys, Meridith Kiell, George Borda, Anne Kimmins, Michelle Witman-Blumenfeld, Michael Siskin, Trish Kolomechuk, Rob Dinow, Hayley Rywan, Lauren Furstenberg, Aviva Poczter, Jeffrey Jakubiak, Annie Thornton, Lynn Steinberg, Cindy Moroney, Ilana Engel, Daniel Gordon, Bin Laurence, Jennifer Rothenberg, Jody Miller, Dina Maiella-Marro, Cory Drewes, Mike Sobel, Marisa Regan, Alyssa Hattem, Nicole Skolnick, Marlene Ruskin, Nicole Roth, Leigh Richards, Nanette Melkonian, Adrienne Saur, Stacy Levens, Barbara Cohen, Stacey Gould, Jessica Miller

Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 8:25 a.m. The minutes from the May 20, 2106, meeting were approved by Ms. Nora Johnson and Ms. Christina Nadolne and will be posted.

Dr. Westervelt discussed recommendations for the PEP program as follows :

PEP Recommendations

Recommendations were discussed in redesigning the current PEP program. The pros and cons of redesigning the schedule, keeping the children in a central location, different ways to provide enrichment and staffing needs were evaluated and addressed. With input from the PEP subcommittee, Dr. Westervelt proposed the best possible schedule in providing enrichment to the students.

In the current PEP program, children are identified for core groups and pulled out for two hours a week in their own school building. The proposed PEP recommendation which takes into account classroom space constraints for additional sections at Manorhaven, Guggenheim and Daly is to house the program in two central locations (Sousa/Salem). Instruction will be provided one day a week for two hours and fifteen minutes. In order to minimize interruptions with school closings and Parent-Teacher Conferences, the program will run Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Core group children will report to their home schools, be transported for their PEP enrichment and then dismissed from their home schools at the end of the day. Children in the fourth and fifth grades from Manorhaven, Guggenheim and Daly schools will be transported at different times to Sousa where they will receive their core group instruction. The second location at Salem will house children at their home school where they will continue the program. Third graders will no longer have core group instruction but will have whole class enrichment. Second graders will receive whole class enrichment for a portion of the school year. Sixth graders will continue with their core groups and Lunchtime Enrichment will continue at Weber.

Staffing will include 2.6 teachers. For the .6 Enrichment teacher, the district will be recruiting someone with Gifted and Talented certification.

Community Comments/Concerns/Questions:

- *Who will enrichment teachers be?*
- *Will type of enrichment be the same?*
- *What will qualifications be to get into the program?*
- *Will Math Olympiads continue?*
- *Are the sixth graders going to receive more instruction?*
- *Is there an opportunity for the .6 Enrichment teacher to provide modeling for K-2 teachers?*
- *Can those teachers participating in “Project Lead The Way” come back and train other teachers?*
- *Does the two hour and fifteen minutes of instruction include transportation time?*
- *How is a child identified especially if they opt out of testing?*
- *Can you speak to the perception of culturally biased exams?*
- *Can you clarify what percentage of third and fourth graders will participate in PEP?*
- *Is the plan for the future to keep that percentage in the teens?*
- *What is the maximum number of children allowed in the core group?*
- *As an AGATE parent, I applaud hiring the consultant. Who will be charged with their fee?*
- *One suggestion is to have a PEP gifted class.*
- *There is concern over transportation and gap in time not spent in class.*
- *Has research been conducted with how PEP students performed in high school and beyond? What is the role of the .6 teacher?*
- *Is there an opportunity for input with the consultant from parents?*

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Next Meeting: TBD