

CURRICULUM COUNCIL MINUTES

November 9, 2009

Present: Mr. Jeff Pammer, Mr. Sam Varano, Mrs. Tracy Cole, Mrs. Cheryle Radcliff, Dr. Dale Burkhard, Mrs. Dona Italiano, Dr. Pat Mathues, Mrs. Donna Huff, Mrs. Deb Alder, Mrs. Maryellen Myers, Mr. Thomas Kwiatkowski, Mr. Frank Gallagher, Mrs. Pat Berger, Mrs. Arlene Buchman and Mr. Jack Silva.

Mr. Silva brought the Council to order at 10:06 A.M.

2010-2011 SAHS Program of Studies

Mr. Varano presented the proposed changes to the *Souderton Area High School Program of Studies 2010-2011* (POS). He described two importance pieces of context related to the POS:

1. Structuring SAHS courses in support of Career Pathways
2. Board Policy #217 requires the increase of one credit (to 27.0) to graduate for the Class of 2014 (today's 8th graders). Currently, 26.0 credits are required of the Class of 2013.

Specifically, the changes proposed for the POS are:

1. For the Class of 2014:
 - Require 2.0 Credits of *Wellness* (instead of 2.5)
 - Require *Career Exploration* (.5 credit) to replace a .5 Business credit
 - Require *Personal Finance* (.5 credit) to replace a .5 Business credit
 - Require 1.5 credits in electives
2. Replace *Physical Education 9/10* (1.0), *Physical Education 11/12* (1.0), and *Health* (.5) with *Physical Education I* (.5), *Health* (.5), and 1.0 Wellness electives for Class of 2014
3. Allow *AP American Government* (1.0) to fulfill a social studies graduation requirement in lieu of *20th Century American History* (1.0) or *AP American History* (1.0).
4. Add *AP Human Geography* (1.0 credit) for 10th graders to take in lieu of *Global Studies* (1.0) or *Honors Global Studies* (1.0).
5. Remove the courses: *Technical Drawing* (.5), *Entrepreneurship* (.5), *Retail Management* (.5), and *Integrated Business Systems* (.5)
6. Add courses: *International Business* (.5), *Future Business Leaders of America* (.5), and *Introduction to Game Programming* (.5).
7. Remove *Life Skills* and *Modified Learning Support* programs
8. Add a more integrated *Skills for Living* program.

9. Remove *Conceptual Physics* (1.0 credit)
10. Replace *Conceptual Physics* with *Physics* (a 1.0 Algebra and Geometry-based course)
11. Replace existing *Physics* with *Honors Physics* (a 1.0 Algebra II/Trigonometry-based course that includes electricity and magnetism)

The Council discussed topics related to the rigor and relevance of each of the courses.

Recommendation: Present at the November 18th E-P Meeting

Elementary School Improvement Plans

SASD Elementary Schools in Phase One of the SASD School Improvement Cycle presented their School Improvement Plans (SIP). Plans incorporate all four learning criteria: core learning, stretch learning, student engagement, and personal skill development.

Mrs. Donna Huff, Principal of Lower Salford Elementary School presented the plan developed by her school improvement team. Lower Salford school improvement goals include:

- Improving Grade 3 PSSA Reading Scores
- Increase the percentage of proficient readers on Grade 2-5 DRA Reading Assessments
- Increase the percentage of students scoring advanced and proficient on the Grade 3 and Grade 5 PSSA Math Assessments
- Increase the percentage of students scoring advanced on the Grade 4 PSSA Math Assessment
- Improve results on the annual Student Engagement Survey with all students reporting that their work was challenging.
- Improve results on the annual Student Engagement Survey with all students reporting improved ability to listen to others' opinions and/or find compromise

Mrs. Huff shared specific action steps related to each school improvement goal.

Mrs. Deb Alder, Principal of EMC Elementary School presented the plan developed by her school improvement team. EMC school improvement goals include:

- More than 80% of Grade 5 students will be proficient on the 2010 PSSA Writing Assessment
- English Language Learners will improve one full level of proficiency on the writing portion of the 2010 WIDA Assessment.
- More than 75% of students will be proficient on district writing assessments
- 93% of students in Grade 5 will be proficient on the 2010 PSSA Reading Test
- More than 90% of students will be proficient (secure skills) on the end of the year Everyday Math Assessment

- All students will become Star Readers by reading 25 books and responding in writing to 5 books
- Increase the participation rate of specific demographic parent groups at evening school events: Back to School Night, Open House, Conferences).
- Less than 35% of EMC teachers (an improvement over 2009) will report that students do not follow directions the first time they are given

Mrs. Alder shared specific action steps related to each school improvement goal.

Mrs. Maryellen Myers, Principal of Salford Hills Elementary School presented the plan developed by her school improvement team. Salford Hills school improvement goals include:

- Increase the percentage of students who maintain the advanced level on the Grade 5 PSSA Reading Assessment.
- Improve 3rd grade students' capability to analyze and interpret reading passages
- Improve students editing skills while maintaining proficient or advanced scores in focus, content, organization and style.
- Improve struggling students' understanding of mathematical concepts beyond basic computation.
- Provide mathematics extension and/or enrichment activities for high achieving math students in Grades 3-5.
- Higher percentages of students will report (district survey) that their schoolwork is more engaging and interesting
- Higher percentages of students will report (district survey) feeling more comfortable asking questions of their teachers when they need help.

Mrs. Myers shared specific action steps related to each school improvement goal.

Recommendation: Present at the November 18th E-P Meeting

Mr. Silva thanked the Council for its good work and adjourned the meeting at 11:12 AM.

Next Meeting: December 7, 2009 at 10:00 AM in the Lowell A. Tinner Board Room