

SALISBURY TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2007

The Salisbury Township School District Curriculum Subcommittee met on Tuesday, November 27, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Administration Building, 1140 Salisbury Road, Allentown, PA.

Board Members Present: Mrs. Feinberg, Mr. Giordano, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Ziegler

Administrators Present: Ms. Aponick, Dr. Beauchemin, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Hafner,
Ms. Morningstar, Mrs. Perron-Jones, Mrs. Pfungstler,
Mrs. Piperato, Mrs. Samide, Dr. Wright, Mr. Ziegenfuss

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Miller at 7:05 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting from October 29, 2007 was made and approved as submitted.

3. **SMART CLASSROOMS - UPDATE**

Mr. Ziegenfuss shared a video entitled, *Information Literacy*, which illustrated the new literacy competencies necessary for students and adults in the 21st century. The video provided a segue to the *Smart Classroom* presentation by middle school teachers, Lynn Fuini-Hetten and Cathy Yurconic. The teachers highlighted the impact of technology integration on learning and learners in their classrooms which included greater opportunity for student collaboration and differentiation, a shift towards student-directed learning, and increased student engagement and interest. The teachers commented that student projects are able to be completed in shorter time periods since the laptops are accessible all day in the classroom. They also stated students are downloading programs at home to continue their school work on their own time, and students are assisting other students during the school day in learning how to use programs.

Mrs. Miller inquired as to the transition time for students to adjust to laptops. The teachers explained there was a brief transition period, and the students are now comfortable with the keyboard. Mrs. Miller asked about the security and care of the laptops. The teachers stated the laptops are locked up every night, and they explained students are handling the equipment with great care. The teachers explained they have

had no technical difficulties with the equipment, and commented on the positive aspects of having wireless capabilities.

4. **STAFF LAPTOP PROCEDURES**

Mr. Ziegenfuss shared a draft of the new STSD Staff Laptop Procedures. District administrators and special education teachers have had laptops for their professional use for a few years. The implementation of the *Classrooms for the Future Grant* provides for 19 high school core subject teachers to have a laptop for instructional and professional development purposes. In order for teachers to truly integrate technology in their instructional practices, they must be aware and comfortable with the possibilities it affords.

Mrs. Miller explained the laptop procedure document had been shared with the board prior to the meeting, and she stated the document is very thorough.

The district currently has an Acceptable Use Policy. Since it is in need of revision, it will be revised shortly and references will be made in the policy to both the Staff and Student Laptop Procedures that have been presented to the board. The revised Acceptable Use Policy will be shared with the board in the near future.

5. **DUAL ENROLLMENT – 2008-2009**

Dr. Beauchemin explained the background on district Dual Enrollment courses and the board's decision in 2005 to not include Dual Enrollment courses in a student's G.P.A. Since the inception of Dual Enrollment courses in 2005, students have expressed an interest in having a weighted grade included in their G.P.A. rather than their receiving college credit for Dual Enrollment.

Dr. Beauchemin and Ms. Morningstar presented a proposal to have any Dual Enrollment course which provides *both* high school credit and college credit be part of a student's G.P.A. Courses taken for college credit only would not be included in a student's G.P.A. After discussion, the board agreed to support the proposal as stated and allow Dual Enrollment for concurrent high school and college credit be included in a student's G.P.A.

6. **CURRICULUM REVIEW PROCESS – UPDATE**

Dr. Beauchemin explained the curriculum review focus has been on the three curriculum areas: Physical Education/Health, Art, and Music. She explained the administrative goal is to create parity among the non-core curricular areas to respond to student interest, student choice, and student career pathways.

The district has a high school graduation requirement of 26.0 credits. In non-core areas, the credit requirements are: Life Smarts (1.0); Business (0); Art (0); Music (0); Physical Education/Health (2.5). Students are required to complete 7.0 credits through elective

choices. Chapter 4 does not include credit requirements in high school for non-core areas; it requires that students demonstrate attainment of standards. The content of the standards can be integrated into various courses.

During the curriculum review process, student input was gathered and indicated the following:

- 50% of students agreed with liking the traditional P.E. course offering and 50% disagreed;
- Students liked the decision to offer semester courses in Drawing and Painting and in Sculpture and Ceramics. As a result, 197 students registered for Art classes in 2007-2008; however, 126 students were granted their requests with 69 students being denied due to scheduling conflicts and staffing needs.
- Students indicated they would prefer hands-on, performance based music course offerings.

As part of the data gathering process, district staffing in each of the curriculum review areas are as follows:

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Physical Education/Health | 5.57 staff (6 teachers) |
| • Music | 3.89 staff (5 teachers) |
| • Art | 3.00 staff (3 teachers) |

Dr. Beauchemin presented three proposals for the board's consideration:

1. Maintain the over-all graduation requirement of 26.0 credits and reduce the Physical Education/Health high school (Grades 9-12) requirement from 2.5 credits to 1.5 credits. Physical Education classes will continue to be offered to all students during all four years of high school as either a traditional P.E. class or a new Life Long fitness class which emphasizes activities such as yoga, pilates, aerobics, and walking.
2. Increase Art electives options as described in the attached handout for high school students based on student art registration data and to create equity of opportunity among physical education/health, art and music offerings. This will require the addition of a full-time art teacher to the department.
3. Consider new music elective options as described in the attached handout for middle and high school students. More definitive music course recommendations for the 2008-2009 Program of Studies will be made at the District Curriculum Committee Meeting on January 7, 2008.

After discussion of the proposals, the board agreed to support the recommendations to reduce the high school Physical Education/Health credits to 1.5 credits and to support the expanded art elective offerings and the hiring of a full time art teacher pending the budget approval process. No decision was made on the music options as this will receive further discussion at the January Curriculum Committee Meeting.

7. **DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN - UPDATE**

Dr. Beauchemin referenced the attachment which listed the Steering Committee for the Strategic Plan. The first meeting was held at the beginning of November, and the Committee is focusing on articulating the vision, mission, and belief statements.

8. **GRADUATION RECOMMENDATION**

Ms. Morningstar presented up-to-date information about graduation location choices. The high school is still investigating possibilities, and they hope to have more definitive information in the next few weeks.

9. **TEACHER EVALUATION PROCESS**

This agenda item was postponed until the next Curriculum Committee Meeting on January 7, 2008.

10. **OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS**

None

11. **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

None

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

13. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 7, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Administration Building, 1140 Salisbury Road, Allentown, PA 18103.