

SALISBURY TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT  
CURRICULUM SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING  
LEHIGH CAREER & TECHNICAL INSTITUTE  
SCHNECKSVILLE, PA  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2006

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The Salisbury Township School District Curriculum Subcommittee met on Monday, October 30, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. at the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute, 4500 Education Park Drive, Schnecksville, PA.

Board Members Present: Mrs. Feinberg, Mr. Gatanis, Mr. Giordano, Mrs. Heffelfinger, Mr. Mantz, Mr. Pauloski, Mr. Reinsmith, Mrs. Ziegler

Administrators Present: Ms. Beauchemin, Mr. Cassidy, Mrs. Perron-Jones, Mrs. Pfingstler, Mrs. Samide, Dr. Wright, Mr. Ziegenfuss

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Feinberg at 7:07 p.m.

2. **CURRICULUM REVIEW PROCESS - UPDATE**

**Family & Consumer Sciences/Business/Technology Integrated Course:**

Ms. Beauchemin explained that the purpose of the update was to provide additional information by the FCS/Business/Technology department and the administration concerning the development of the new Integrated Course that is being proposed for 2007 – 2008. Ms. Beauchemin reminded the committee that the course is being developed as a result of the research and data that has been collected from various stakeholders during Phase I and II of the Curriculum Review Process.

Ms. Beauchemin explained that the purpose of the evening's presentation by the department and administration is to provide enough information concerning the goals, objectives, and framework of the course to support an administrative recommendation to have this full year integrated course be placed in the Salisbury High School Program of Studies for 2007-2008. It is being recommended that the new integrated course replace the current required semester courses, Computer Applications, and Life Management A. The new course would be a year long course required of all Grade 10 students. Ms. Beauchemin stated that the SHS Program of Studies for 2007 – 2008 will be on the November Curriculum Committee agenda for discussion with an administrative recommendation for approval.

Mrs. Maciag, department chair, provided an overview of the overarching goal and objectives of the integrated course. She explained the development of Essential

Questions that will guide the integrated process of the course. She further noted the efforts to personalize the course by having students as the focus of learning with the emphasis on a project-based approach. The curriculum will address areas such as: personal finance, understanding of business and entrepreneurship, career exploration and planning, decision-making process, and soft skills development. Technology will be taught, utilized, and supported to provide learning within a real world context. Mr. Ziegenfuss offered some ideas as to how this might be supported through technology.

Ms. Beauchemin explained that the plan for 2007-2008 is to provide four sections of this course to grade 10 students in groups of about 43-47 students. The course would be co-taught by three teachers representing FCS, Business, and Technology. Ms. Beauchemin emphasized the need for providing common planning time for the teachers in order to allow for the level of collaboration and planning that this type of course requires. It was recommended that the teachers have a daily collaborative planning period within their schedules.

Ms. Beauchemin explained that the elective FCS courses would continue to be offered as well as the current Business electives. The current staff can accommodate the FCS electives. Due to the high student demand for Business courses, it was stated that the administrative recommendation is to continue to offer the electives. Depending upon budget recommendations, the electives would either be offered through a cycle, or it will be recommended to hire an additional part time business teacher to meet student interest and requests. This will not necessarily result in an additional cost in the budget, but may be addressed by a shifting of finances.

Mr. Ziegenfuss explained that the needed technology for this course would not be an additional expense, but rather a re-allocation of technology funds currently in the technology budget.

Ms. Beauchemin stated that the Curriculum Review Process will continue next year for the FCS/Business/Technology department, and it will address the needed pre-requisites for the integrated course at the middle school level. It was stated that the middle school focus will be on career exploration, development of soft skills for interaction in a collaborative learning environment, and technology skills.

Mrs. Feinberg commented that she is in support of the integrated course, but she cautioned that we should not reduce the number of business electives or resort to a rotation schedule. Mr. Mantz expressed support for the integrated aspects of the new course.

Mr. Giordano asked Mrs. Cotugno if she expected her students to learn the use of technology more in this course as opposed to Computer Applications. She responded that the students would learn more and have immediate opportunity for application of new skills to promote their learning. Mr. Giordano also expressed concern for Special Education students in this course. Mrs. Perron-Jones stated that the course may require

co-teaching involvement by the special education teachers. She also stated that the course may help with some of the transitions plans needed for the students.

Mr. Giordano asked the teachers if they had any trepidations about the course. The teachers responded that they were both excited and nervous about the undertaking, but they all agreed it was the right learning approach for students. Mrs. Heffelfinger inquired as to other models similar to this course in surrounding districts. Ms. Beauchemin explained that there was an integrated model that served as the impetus for this course, but she acknowledged that lack of common teacher planning time resulted in the course becoming more traditionally taught. Both Mr. Ziegenfuss and Ms. Beauchemin have offered support to the classroom teachers to ensure that this does not happen in Salisbury and reiterated the importance of the common planning time.

Mrs. Ziegler thanked the teachers for their efforts in developing the course proposal. The board agreed to have the full year integrated course placed in the SHS Program of Studies for 2007 – 2008. Ms. Beauchemin and the department will continue to inform the board of the development of the course throughout the 2006-2007 school year.

### 3. **DISTRICT TESTING SUMMARY**

The building principals and the Director of Special Education presented the 2005 – 2006 standardized testing data for each school and the Special Education students. After a brief explanation by Ms. Beauchemin that the district met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) at every level, each administrator presented the data focusing on two areas: 1) the distribution and strength of test scores for each grade level or student group; and 2) identification of areas of need and interventions being developed and/or implemented. It was noted that the PSSA test was given to all students in Grades 3-8, and 11 for the first time in Spring 2006.

Ms. Beauchemin presented the SAT and AP Test Data from the 2005-2006 school year. It was noted that the percentage of students taking the SAT tests decreased slightly from the previous year. The AP test scores remained fairly stable in terms of student participation and student scores.

### 4. **PHYSICAL EDUCATION & DISTRICT ATHLETES**

Ms. Beauchemin explained that a pilot program was initiated in Spring 2006 which allowed Salisbury Township School District student athletes in Grades 9 – 12 the option to not take gym on game day only. The pilot program was continued during Fall 2006. The pilot was initiated for the following reasons: 1) concern for student injuries; 2) student performance on game day; and 3) consistency of alternative assignments and activities implemented in Physical Education classes.

In reviewing the data with the Physical Education & Health Department, it was determined that the majority of students never chose the option during P.E. class. Additionally, the number of requests drastically decreased during fall sports. In response

to the data, it is the administration's and department's recommendation that the pilot program be discontinued. It is also recommended that alternative activities/assignments for injured students and student athletes be consistently implemented across all P.E. classrooms. The board agreed to the recommendation provided that the consistency of alternative activities/assignments is implemented.

Mr. Pauloski questioned the practice of allowing male and female high school students to participate together in high contact sports such as basketball, flag football, and soccer. There was agreement among several board members that this practice is unsafe.

Ms. Beauchemin and Mr. Hume will speak with the department members to ensure that this practice does not continue. Mr. Giordano suggested that 21<sup>st</sup> century Physical Education programs be investigated as part of the Curriculum Review Process.

Ms. Beauchemin explained that the Physical Education & Health Department is currently in Phase I of the process, and the department is researching 21<sup>st</sup> century approaches in this curricular area.

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5. **OVERNIGHT EDUCATIONAL TOUR REQUEST**

An overnight educational tour request for the Junior Class Social Studies Department to visit Washington, D.C. on April 19 - 21, 2007 was presented and approved. The tour adheres to the field trip policy.

6. **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

None

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

8. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 28, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Administration Building, 1140 Salisbury Road, Allentown, PA 18103.