



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

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Curriculum Committee Agenda
October 6, 2023 9:00 - 11:00 am
BOE Conference Room

Board Members in Attendance: Jennifer White, Csilla Csipak, Keith Molinari, Timothy Salmon

Administrators in Attendance: Kristin Fox, Michael Fackelman, Grant Kolmer, David Hunscher, Nick Markarian, Kathy Stotler, Lisa Vitale, Stephanie Smith

1. Board Agenda Items

a. Action items to be placed on the next board agenda

- Textbook Approval: [Happier: Learn the Secrets to Daily Joy and Lasting Fulfillment](#) (The Study of Well Being)
(This was not on the agenda circulated prior to this meeting, but was introduced at the BOECC meeting on September 13). One member of the public asked how to purchase the book. That person did not ask any questions, and there were no questions or concerns about this book from any Board members. One Board member suggested that other books would be excellent addition to the course:
 - Flow by Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi (2008 edition) and Siddhartha by Hermann Hesse.

The Committee recommends approving the book.

b. Items to be listed under “Report on Progress”:

[Focus on Personal Financial Literacy, High School 1st Edition](#)

Financial Literacy is a semester course offered at RHS that is a graduation requirement. It is open to all students, grades 9-12. There are 15 sections (~336 students) set for this school year. The course is also offered over the summer during a 6-week period (same content as the school-year course, but condensed into 6 weeks). Mr. Fackelman explained that the teachers would like to purchase the new edition of the textbook that the district has been using since 2012, copyright 2012. The teachers reviewed a few different textbooks, but using the updated version of the current textbook would allow the course structure and curriculum to remain substantially similar.

The book will be available for review at the Board office.

Digital access for board members:

<https://my.mheducation.com/login>

Username: mhcte

Password: McH2024cte

2. Discussion Items

a. Elementary Scheduling Professional Development

Elementary teams are working to finalize selection of a vendor to assist with elementary scheduling. Currently, there are many supports provided for assisting elementary students (e.g., WIN time for K-1, in-class supports, for example). Often, such support is provided in place of another activity (e.g., special, lunch, recess, etc.) that the student would otherwise be engaged in. Additionally, the Board has reported that it will apply for the State's High-Impact Tutoring grant. The grant application suggests that providing tutoring during the school day is optimal. However, this is difficult given the current schedule and the fact that staff are occupied during the school day (though it is possible that a staff member could give up prep period and/lunch to provide the tutoring). Also, do we want elementary students to give up lunch, recess, special, etc. to receive this tutoring? Other alternatives considered are before/after school tutoring and/or Zoom sessions.

The District sent out ~88 invitations to the parents of students in Grades 3-5 who are receiving instructional support for tutoring. Parents were asked to indicate if they wanted their child included in the tutoring program and their availability to attend four AM or PM sessions each week of the program. It also inquired about the parent's potential interest in other options, including a virtual option, during the school day, and before/after school. 26 families indicated that they were interested by selecting at least one option.

Currently, the district is moving forward with the tutoring program while we wait for notification from the NJDOE as to the status of the grant application. If we are not awarded the grant, we can utilize ARP ESSER III funds for the program.

b. State Assessment Report 2022-2023 (October 16, 2023)

- *New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA)* test results were reviewed (see linked document). The NJGPA was administered for the first time to the junior class last year. Taking the test is a requirement for graduation (the State waived the requirement for the senior class last year). The ELA portion is aligned to 10th grade standards and the Math portion is aligned to Algebra I and Geometry standards. If a student does not pass the test, there are several options: (i)

retake the test during senior year, (ii) retake the test at Raritan Valley Community College (students can pay \$10 for a retake and retake the test up to 3 times), and (iii) use one of several alternative pathways (e.g., use ACT/SAT scores, a portfolio appeal, etc.). Ms. Fox also explained that the District is looking at NJSLA results to determine if certain students might need extra assistance prior to taking the NJGPA.

- One Board member asked when parents are notified of the NJGPA results? Parents are notified in June of the Spring test results and the notice includes an outline of all options for retakes and alternative pathways, if applicable.
 - *New Jersey Student Learning Assessment (NJSLA), Dynamic Learning Map (DLM) (for special education students that do not take NJSLA), and Access for English Language Learners (ELLs) test results were reviewed (see linked document).* Ms. Fox and Mr. Kolmer explained that due to parent refusals, the participation was under the 95% threshold set as the Federal Accountability Proficiency Rate, and as a result, the NJSLA results for those tests (Grade 9 ELA, Grade 11 Science, High School Algebra and Geometry High School Math) will be impacted. For example, we anticipate that our federal proficiency rate will be 46% rather than 46.4 for Algebra 1 at RHS and 84.6% rather than 85.1% for Geometry at RHS. On the slides showing scores over time by grade, there are year-over-year results, as well as results for grade-based cohorts.
 - The presentation also includes NWEA *Measure of Academic Progress (MAP)* test results. This is an internal assessment used by the district to measure student learning capacities in ELA and Math. There was discussion about whether this data should be included in the State Assessment report, since (i) the MAP test is not required by the State, and (ii) the MAP test is an adaptive test to assess individual learning capacity. The District staff use MAP test data to identify areas of student strength and weakness, and tailor curriculum and/or support accordingly.
- c. *Summer Curriculum Updates*
Summaries of curriculum changes are linked below, by department. If you have questions about any of these projects or changes, please send them in advance of the meeting. We will review the first two content areas listed below each month. However, we will be voting to approve all summer curriculum changes at the October 16, 2023 Board meeting.
- *[*English Language Arts](#)*
Mr. Hunscher reviewed the Summer Curriculum projects in ELA (see linked document).
 - *[*Mathematics](#)*
Mr. Kolmer reviewed the Summer Curriculum projects in Mathematics. Of note, enVision will be the textbook

recommended by the teachers to replace GoMath! for K-5 instruction. One Board Member asked if teachers provide input into professional development topics. Ms. Fox and Mr. Kolmer explained that teachers created Professional Development Plans which include professional development topics that they would like to take/teach.

- [Visual and Performing Arts](#)
- [Science and Tech Ed](#)
- [Special Education](#)
- [World Languages](#)

d. *Program Evaluations*

- [Mathematics - Executive Summary](#)

Mr. Kolmer provided an overview of the Program Evaluations in Mathematics (see linked document).

3. FTGOTO

Next meeting: November 1, 2023 9-11am

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy Salmon