

Teaching and Learning Committee Meeting

November 5, 2010, 8:30 a.m.

*In Attendance: Jeff Shedd, Tom Eismeier, Linda Alfiero, David Hillman,
Rebecca Millett, Kate Williams-Hewitt, Mary Townsend*

1. Upcoming Literacy Workshop
 - a. Jeff Shedd, Tom Eismeier, and Linda Alfiero attended the meeting in order to update the committee on the task force progress and to hear any concerns prior to the November workshop.
 - b. The Early Literacy Task Force has made adjustments in the current reading assessments thanks to their work with Tammy and Clare (independent literacy consultants from MA).
 - c. Linda Alfiero said that the assessment team is primarily looking at where the weaknesses are in our current assessments and improving our ability to identify and support struggling readers.
 - d. The team will update the Board at its November 30 workshop.
 - e. Ms. Townsend will send out a note to Board asking for preliminary questions for the team.
 - f. Ms. Williams Hewitt asked how will we explain RTI within this presentation.
 - g. Mr. Eismeier pointed out that part of the work involves improving communication between regular education and special education and there has been progress in this regard.
 - h. Angela Schipani's will present the professional development work she has been doing with the staff during the Early Literacy Workshop.

2. Follow up on Science
 - a. Mr. Hillman is still concerned about a curriculum disconnect between Math and Science upon reaching high school (i.e. students take physics prior to having all of the necessary algebra). He expressed concern that Cape should perhaps not teach Physics in 10th grade to students who have not taken Algebra in Middle School. He said his online research suggests that Algebra could be taken earlier than it has been offered.
 - b. Mr. Hillman and Ms. Millett both suggested that the district should be encouraged to continue the discussion about the academic disconnect between Math and Science in Middle and High School, and develop a presentation for a Board Teaching and Learning Workshop in the Fall of 2011.
 - c. Ms. Millett suggested the presentation team should include people "on all sides of the argument" — math and science teachers who agree with "Physics First" and those who do not—those who agree that Algebra should be presented in the 8th grade, and those who do not . . .
 - d. Mr. Hillman suggested that , as a district, we might be underestimating what Middle School students are capable of—and that perhaps the Middle School

might allow students to voluntarily take advanced math at an earlier age (7th/8th grade level).

- e. Ms. Williams-Hewitt reminded the committee that all change has to “come from within” – district teachers and administrators will need to have time to evaluate adjustments.
- f. Ms. Townsend will craft a statement that requests the science and math team form a committee explore at the Science/Math disconnect and present to the Board during a Workshop in the Fall of 2011.

3. CIA Meeting Update

- a. Ms. Millett spoke briefly about how the curriculum area plan (K-12) was developed, including the management cycle—assessment, presentation, etc. “Curriculum assessment is meant to be a cycle, not static.” At this point, the district is ending the plan cycle. Ms. Millett said Teaching and Learning did not exist two years ago, instead, Board reps attended meetings and informed the Board of progress. In 2008, it was decided that the discussion of curriculum should be broadened to include budget, resources, etc. in order for the board to be fully informed and able to communicate expenses to the public—thus the Teaching and Learning Committee was born.
- b. Ms. Millett then spoke to how the CMP would operate independent from the Board assessing and analyzing curriculum all the while keeping the board informed of the work through the Teaching and Learning committee. In addition, should the CMP develop proposed curriculum changes, those changes will be submitted to the Teaching and Learning committee for board discussion and consideration. There is an agreement that communication between the Curriculum Management Plan and Teaching and Learning will be productive and consistent. If a Board member has an issue with the curriculum, he or she may go to the Teaching and Learning Committee, and the committee will present the issue to the CMP. “As a Board, this is our ability to raise issues.”
- c. Ms. Millett suggested it is up to CMP to communicate the Board role to staff.
- d. Mr. Hillman questioned if the Board is under the obligation to approve the curriculum each year. In addition, he wondered if we have a real change process in effect for curriculum.
- e. Ms. Millett reminded Mr. Hillman that there is a change process in the CMP. At this point the committee is trying to determine where thresholds are (when is it a major change vs. a minor change).
- f. Mr. Hillman suggested the need for a section that includes parental/student input.
- g. Ms. Millett agrees that there needs to be a section for public input as well as a section for flow.
- h. Teaching and Learning should follow up with the CMP with regard to public input and clarification of roles and flow of work and change process.

4. New Workshop Schedule.

- a. Future Workshop Schedule/Work Plan Ms. Townsend informed the committee that Mr. Hawkins would be assuming responsibility of chairing the Social Studies curriculum team, and that the presentation had been moved from January to March.
- b. Ms. Townsend also noted that Mr. Hawkins would like to have Mr. Lanoie give a presentation on Technology to the Board in January.
- c. Ms. Townsend also informed the committee of Mr. Hawkins' intent to complete areas of curriculum prior to his final departure in April. Mr. Hawkins hopes to complete work on:
 1. Art
 2. Music
 3. PE/Healthand work on a plan for:
 4. Industrial Technology (Jim Ray, Betsy Nilsen, Christopher Turner)
 5. Drama (Steve Price/Dick Mullen)

5. Next Meeting.

- a. The next Teaching and Learning Committee is scheduled for December 3, 8:00 a.m. @ Alan's office.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Townsend