

**SOCSD Curriculum Council
Minutes October 21, 2010**

In attendance: Sheila Beglin, Karen Mignone, Pamela Hess, Elizabeth Scotson, Michelle Jones, Elyane Armaniaco, Shannon Sorrentino, Bill Lee, Karen Tesik, Brian Culot, Vicki Caramante, Yu Bong Ko, Dana Stangle-Plow, Jennifer Amos
Absent: Rosemary Pitruzzella, Michele Fenster, Kristen Duroy, Marisa Premus

The Committee reviewed committee procedures for the year and agreed by consensus to adopt the procedures as presented (see "Committee Procedures" and "New Program Proposals" documents. Each building reported on the work being done on their respective BLTs.

WOS: Heather ODonnell, WOS psychologist, and Sheila Beglin -- reported on WOS Character Ed. Activities: Theraplay-workshop for parents; Pennies for Peace; WOS curriculum integrates the Character Ed activities; Germ Smart curriculum - significant (20%) reduction in WOS absences due to illness. What is School Spirit & School Pride and how do we show it?

TZE: BLT discussions about the TE BLT Team: Do parents know all of the initiatives being done at TZE? PTA membership has increased and more information is getting out to parents - scheduling of weekly events at TZE. Does staff know all of what PTA is doing in building? Addressed Germ Smart program, dismissal procedures, bus problems and the upcoming district Messaging system.

CL: Shared decision making team and more initiatives involving district committees. "Morning Meetings" in every class in grades 4 & 5. Garden Committee has been created. A letter has been drafted to send to parents to report on the work being done in CL regarding Character Education.

SOMS: Investigating pursuing "Schools to Watch" program (Characteristics of an Effective Middle School"); School Report Card; Names of teams; Challenge Lab different for G&T; Homework Policy are all topics being reviewed in addition to the reports from the Character Ed committee at SOMS (parent representatives from BLT).

TZHS: Three students serve on the BLT; minutes from the TZHS BLT distributed to Council members; discussing the Code of Conduct and clubs and how that mirrors or could mirror the Athletic Code of Conduct; assessing the social and emotional well-being of TZHS students; how to enhance communication; "Moving Up" transition process from 8th to 9th.

Liam Frawley re: SOCSD Character Ed Committee:

Working on Character Ed. Committee (three year plan). November 10th is the Wellness Committee meeting. December 13th the Wellness Committee meeting at 6:45 PM to address issues of scheduling for parents who have expressed a wish to participate more fully on district committees. Goal for committee is to follow what is already established in the Policy. Liam will report back December 16th.

There should be representation on each BLT of someone who is serving on the district Character Ed. Committee. From CEC to BLT to CC should be the process for reporting and disseminating info.

Question was raised: When instituting a new program is it curriculum, and therefore mapped; we need to explore how we define curriculum. GOAL; MISSION; REVIEW.

BLTs can send letter regarding the Character Ed programs they have instituted to report to families.

Update on NYS Initiatives re: Curriculum (Lynn Gorey):

The dilemma is how much do we (SOCSD) change the curriculum when the state has not yet defined what will be changed. What are we doing and how does it intersect with what we want to do? NYS is looking at what Delaware has done:

The Delaware Teacher Evaluation Model is very much like the SOCSD model. Core Standards/Teacher Evaluations/Tests will change.

Staffing/Course/Textbook Adoption is approved by the BOE. Next BOE meeting we will be well in the Budget planning. Project Lead the Way may be coming forward. Electives, changes in electives, revisions in mini courses at the high school. In December we will probably have to start a new review process and continue mapping what we have (SS, Science).

FLAP Grant: Additional Chinese teacher @ TZHS. A mini course on Chinese at SOMS; the language lab is up and running. Twenty-five students in virtual HS; SOMS has two and expecting more. It is doing very well. Two Virtual HS Coordinators. Trip to China planned for the HS. Chinese teacher is writing two curriculums

December Agenda:

New Courses at SOMS and TZHS
Liam report on Wellness and Character Ed Committees
PDP Report: Waiting for State Info
Special Ed Department: Update