

SOUTH ORANGETOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Curriculum Council
October 15, 2008

Minutes

Attendees: Lynn Gorey, Helen Nelson, Nora Polansky, Michelle Jones, Rosemary Pitruzzella, William Lee, Ph.D., Mary Chaudior, Michele Fenster, Ed Bolan, Elizabeth Howell-Scotson, Elayne Armaniaco, Judy Pocalyko

- I. Review Goals, Protocols and Agenda

- II. BLT Reports:
 - a. WOS
 - i. Energy initiative – Going Green. Looking at ways to save paper.
 - ii. Lice Education
 - iii. Tristates Visit
 - iv. Pilot Program – integrating technology into Long Ago Unit
 - v. Writers’ Workshop project with TZE (Intervisitations/BLOG)
 - vi. Updating little book of school rules

 - b. TZE
 - i. Character Education: Word of the Month – Read aloud in different rooms.
 - ii. Keeping the school green.

 - c. CL: BLT hasn’t met yet.

 - d. SOMS
 - i. Articulation with high school – Departments will meet together
 - ii. Faculty Meetings
 - 1. videoconferencing
 - 2. podcasts
 - 3. windows movie maker
 - 4. Smartboards
 - iii. Making building more inviting (physical plant)
 - iv. Go Green Club
 - v. Honors classes
 - vi. Follow up on playground equipment

- e. TZHS
 - i. New classes
 - ii. Project Lead the Way – Biomedical
 - iii. SAT course
 - iv. Honors Committee: Essential Question – How do Honors classes enhance student achievement?
 - 1. English Department will like to see English discussion class
 - 2. Math – no changes currently being proposed.
 - 3. Social Studies – mixed response to added separate Honors’ course or keeping the Honors option
 - 4. Science – add an Honors option or keep as is
 - 5. Surveying of students will be done
 - 6. Recommendations will come to Curriculum Council on December 10th.
 - v. Additional TV Studio courses
 - vi. Additional Project Lead the Way Engineering classes
 - vii. Class size issue – particular classes (i.e. Science Lab)
- f. Open Houses for the Community – looking for a date (maybe during Spring Superintendent Conference Day).
- g. Go Green initiative – Sustainability Club – Need more recycling bins.
- h. Code of Conduct – “Athletes are held to a higher standard” – question about all students being held to that standard.

III. Curriculum and Instruction Update

- a. Updates:
 - i. Year 3
 - 1. PE/Health – Liam
 - 2. Math
 - a. Tristate visit in April
 - b. Maps have been entered into Performance Pathways; fine tuning with all teachers; working on performance-based assessments and common assessment data; adding differentiation lessons.
 - 3. Art
 - a. Looking at curriculum
 - b. Expansion on TV Studio
 - c. New digital format – SOMS/TZHS could link to new areas.
 - 4. ELA Review
 - a. Leadership team will be reviewing curriculum surveying parents, teachers, students; developing a report with recommendations We are starting with the Tristate recommendations from their last visit (April, 2005) and the Balanced Literacy Framework (developed 2005 – 2007).

We continue to work with consultants from Litlife and CL and Schoolwide Resources (WOS/TZE). We are focusing on cross-grade teams (1-2).

5. Technology
 - a. George Brady will focus and report to Council.
6. Foreign Language, Social Studies, Music, G/T
 - a. Year 1: Gather data looking at research, best practices, other programs as well as ours (G/T County group sponsored by our district meeting, October 20th).

IV. Other District Projects

- a. Project Lead the Way – statistics
 - i. SOMS Gateway – 2 sections – 29 boys – 17 girls
 - ii. TZHS:
 1. Introduction to Engineering Design – 3 sections – 60 boys – 7 girls
 2. Design and Drawing – 2 sections – 30 boys – 10 girls
 3. Architectural Drawing – 7 boys – 2 girls
 4. CAD
 5. Small Engines – 11 boys – 1 girl
 6. Carpentry – 11 boys
 - iii. Next Year:
 1. Principles of Engineering (new course)
- b. New Pre-Algebra class – 18 students – 16 boys– 2 girls
- c. Integrated Algebra (first administration 07 – 08)
 - i. TZHS: 140 students
 1. 9 – 0 – 54
 2. 12 – 55 – 64
 3. 119 – 65 – 100? 85%
 4. 15 – 85 – 100% 11%
 - ii. SOMS: 118 students
 1. 44 – 65 – 84 37%
 2. 74 – 85 – 100 63%
 - iii. 252 passed, 21 failed = 273
 - iv. Total Students
 1. 92% passed
 2. 8% failed

V. Liam Frawley’s Update on Physical Education/Health

- a. President’s Challenge: 3 – 8 is now back in place. We will be doing this for 3 years.

- b. Curriculum maps were completed K-12 last year.
- c. PE programs will be audited by the State Ed Department. Requirement is 120 minutes per week at elementary level (K-3 daily physical education)
- d. Grade 4/5/6 – recommended daily, but not required.
- e. PE: walking and hiking class as an option (will have a field trip). Fishing in rotation in Spring. (TZHS Elective)
- f. Opting-Out is no longer an option (BOE Policy).
- g. Zee: There's a story writing contest. Winning book will be printed and given to all students. No cost to District. Assemblies will be held at each school this Spring.
- h. Some games will be podcasted. Looking for student announcers.

Agenda for next meeting: December 10, 2008

1. New Course Recommendations
2. Honors Committee Recommendations

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