

SOUTH ORANGETOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Curriculum Council
Wednesday, April 29, 2009

Minutes

Attending Members:

Mary Ouderkirk, Elizabeth Scotson, Helen Nelson, Michelle Jones, Mary Chaudoir,
Judy Pocalyko, Deena Bollinger, Yu Bong Ko, Marisa Premus, Nora Polansky,
Bill Lee, Ed Bolan, Rosemary Pitruzzella

Absent Members:

Michele Fenster, Christine Brew-Mitchell

Guests:

Kerri McBride, Patty Eyer, Arlene Sorensen, Beth Lipton, Dana Stangel-Plowe
(representing Christine Brew-Mitchell)

Agenda:

I. Kindergarten Screening – Nora Polansky

Mrs. Polansky explained the new screening timeline: using the DIAL screening instrument. All incoming Kindergarten students will be screened in Spring, 2009 instead of September 2009. The screening will be conducted in teams. The results will be used for class placement. Cluster groups will be developed using this data. Data will also be collected via pre-school surveys and parent surveys.

Parents have received information about this process and dates have been set up. Summer screenings will be available for people who are late registrants. All teachers have been trained to administer this screening device.

II. Gifted and Talented Curriculum Review – Year 1

- a. G/T teachers and ASI have met to review the components of the current program, identification process, etc. We are creating a wikispace that will be public in September and accessed through our website. The wikispace will have our program information, identification process, and resources for parents, teachers and students. A progress report for students in G/T services was shared. This will be piloted at the end of 2008 – 2009 school year.
- b. Next year during Year II of the review, we will look at student data, administer a survey to parents, students and teachers, review research, look at additional program options: for example; advanced courses, Schoolwide Enrichment, cluster groups, virtual learning. We re asking each BLT (Building Level Team) to give us feedback on these questions:
 - i. In addition to our G/T program, what ways does your current program address the needs of high ability and/or gifted learners?

- ii. Are there any questions that you would like to propose for consideration for inclusion in any of our surveys?

GEAR conducted a parent survey this year. A request was made to view these results.

- c. Staff development: The District will look at potential secondary staff development next year focused on differentiated instruction using possible stimulus and grant funds, if they are available. There will be additional support at SOMS to provide staff development to cluster teachers and work with students who are in cluster classrooms.
- III. **Honors criteria** for Advanced Biology (grade 9), English 9 Honors, Social Studies 9 Honors for next year. The criteria were distributed and the process explained. There will be an appeals process. The criteria, rubrics, and exams were developed by the high school in collaboration with the middle school.

Next Meeting:

June 10, 2009 – 4 pm – SOMS Library

Agenda (Tentative)

1. Update on Tri-State visit
2. Update on ELA, Social Studies, and Foreign Language curriculum review
3. Possible textbook adoption (TZHS Math) if they are ready to make a recommendation.
4. Special Education materials will be shared by Michele Fenster.