

Curriculum Council Meeting  
May 11, 2010  
(Meeting was rescheduled from April 20)

Attending: Mary Ouderkirk, Victoria Caramante, Lisa Borruso, Elizabeth Howell Scotson, Elayne Armaniaco, Michelle Jones, Dana Stangel-Plowe, Sheila Beglin, Pam Hess, Shannon Sorrentino, Deena Kramarczyk, Marisa Premus, Bill Lee, Karen Tesik, Lynn Gorey, Brian Culot, Mark Soss, Rosemary Pitruzzella, Michele Fenster

Absent: Tanya Peterson, Ed Bolan, YuBong Ko

The focus of today's meeting was to share the new schedules that have been developed at WOS, TZE, CLE and SOMS. These schedules will be implemented next year.

At the elementary level, some of the common goals are:

- Develop a schedule with fewer interruptions by creating an intervention period for teams of teachers. This will eliminate pull outs (in most cases) during the rest of the instructional time.
- Differentiated instruction in a workshop model is the expectation K – 5. This time can be used to enhance differentiation, plan different levels of projects for high achieving students and other small group work.
- In addition, at CLE the teams will be set up in two person teams instead of three person teams. In grade 4, the students will change classes for one subject. In grade 5, students will change classes for two subjects. This change will provide each teacher with a smaller student caseload. This will help enhance individualization and communication.
- The elementary schools are also looking at changing the teachers' schedules to provide a solid block of 30 minutes at the beginning of the day for planning or team work. This change will be implemented at CLE. TZE is also looking into this change. The student day will not change. Busing will remain on the same schedule.

SOMS: Ms. Tesik explained several different changes for SOMS.

- a) At Grade 6, there will no longer be a double period of ELA. Instead there will be a Reading in the Content Area/Problem based period. Each student will have one quarter of science, social studies, math or English Language Arts using problem based units of study that integrate reading and writing in that content area.

- b) Grade 6 students and teachers will be divided into three teams instead of two. There will be one ELA, one math, one science, one social studies and one special education teacher assigned to each team.
- c) The grade 6 student will have an explore period where they will take art, tech, health and quiet study. During the quiet study period, there will be some mini-workshops and the challenge lab will be available. This same model will be available for grades 7 and 8.
- d) There is a second period in each student's schedule – grade 6, 7, and 8, where they will take music explore or instrumental music or chorus, response to intervention or academic center.
- e) The 7<sup>th</sup> grade schedule remains the same for the core subjects. The explore period will include art, tech, home and careers and quiet study. They will have access to the mini-workshops and challenge lab.
- f) Grade 8 schedule remains essentially the same for the core subjects. The students who are enrolled in the earth science regents' class will have a lab in their weekly schedule. Students who are in the grade 8 science program will have a science lab experience through the explore program.

Overview documents related to these schedules are attached. In addition, I have included the curriculum review process that was explained at this meeting.

**Next Meeting:**           **June 8, 2010**  
                                  **4:00 pm SOMS Library**

**Agenda:**                 Update on the Gifted and Talented program review