

# SOUTH ORANGETOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Curriculum Council Meeting Wednesday, June 10, 2009

### Minutes

- I. Update on cluster grouping for next year: *Bill Lee***
- There will be clusters for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Clusters from last year were reviewed along with students currently in the Gifted and Talented program. Data from the NYS assessments were also reviewed, then a schedule was developed.
  - Kerri McBride will work with English Language Arts
  - New technology person hired will work with Social Studies and Science
- II. Update on new course enrollment and any textbooks being proposed: *Ed Bolan***
- Testing was extended a day --5 total days of testing
  - They are continuing to grade the tests, and letters will be sent next week (projections of sections seem accurate)
  - Science department visited another school to look at Biomedical course. They would like this to be an elective
  - Book was decided for course, *Essential Biology for Physiology*
  - Environmental Science is making final decision on text
  - Equipment for TV studio was questioned. Juliet reports that a consultant from BOCES is working with them.
  - Are students being prepared for SAT II's? A teacher from the high school is putting together a supplemental work for teachers to use with students.
  - Planning for exit survey with Chemistry students
- III. Update on Foreign Language Department and FLAP Grant: *J. Gevargis***
- March --join t meeting with TZHS and SOMS to discuss curriculum review process and upcoming Tristate visit in 2010-2011
  - Some items discussed were:
    1. Foreign language in elementary grades
    2. Language everyday in grade 6
    3. Increase requirements
    4. Virtual learning
    5. Rosetta Stone
    6. Bilingual co-teachers
    7. Honors sections/clusters
    8. Enhance technology use even more Already using Skype & e-pals
    9. Best Practices- - common assessments have been developed
    10. Possibility of hosting County conference
  - FLAP Grant also shared (3 year grant for \$260,000 each year) – This grant will be used to bring Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Russian to the district K-12. (Decision will be made on July 27<sup>th</sup>)

**IV. Update on Social Studies: *Ed Bolan & Jeannine Carr***

- Best practices was discussed K-12 using text-rendering protocol and article
- Café Protocol was also used to discuss what we aspire to: using Tech Paths, project-based activity with “guided choice” for children, continue to integrate technology, clarify standards and articulate K-12, common assessments, and integrate Social Studies throughout other curriculum areas.
- Next steps: Take a closer look at the standards (grade above and below) at our next meeting (date to be determined)

**V. Update on ELA curriculum work**

- Each school assessed where they are on curriculum rubric
- ELA common goals were shared and expectations identified
- Library Media Specialists should continue to look at the different research goals for each grade. This should be part of ELA goals.

**VI. Tristate Report**

- Draft report was shared and discussed (final version will be posted online)
- Recommendations were reviewed and were in line with what the Committee wants to work on
- Math Leadership Team will define and align our goals with the report and make a three-year plan. Tristate team to revisit in two years to look for evidence.