

# SOUTH ORANGETOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Curriculum Council

April 18, 2007

### Minutes

Attending: Lynn Gorey, Ed Bolan, Rosemary Pitruzzella, Rebecca Williams, Judy Pocalyko, Yu Bong Ko, Jeanne Palumbo, Elizabeth Howell Scotson, Elayne Armaniaco, Melanie Kershaw

Absent Members: Paula Leavey, Deena Bollinger, Sara Tucker, Dr. William Lee

Visitors: Peter Burgos, Liam Frawley, Nina Phipps, Maria Stillo, Patty Eyer, Beth Lipton, Arlene Sorensen

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*I apologize for changing the order of the agenda. Liam asked if he could be moved up because he needed to get to a school athletic event.*

**1. PE Elective Program Update and Opting-out Policy: Liam Frawley**

The first year of the elective program appears to be successful. Attendance data and student survey data should be collected to further enhance the feedback.

Opting out of PE for Senior Athletes during the season when they are participating on a varsity team sport was discussed at length. The Council is in agreement that this policy should be changed. Liam Frawley will bring this proposed change to the BOE on MAY 8, 2007. PTA and students will be informed of this proposal prior to the date so they can participate in the conversation, if desired.

**2. Gifted and Talented Program Update:** Patty Eyer, Beth Lipton and Arlene Sorensen gave an update on the current program and the proposed program for next year. Kerri McBride was unable to attend. The identified students from Grades 3-4 will get additional direct support next year because the numbers are significantly smaller with the new identification criteria. The SOMS project-based class will be divided by interests next year, and the two teachers will both teach students in Grades 6,7,8 based on their interests. A new computerized program from [renzullilearning.com](http://renzullilearning.com) will be piloted next year. A small group of students will complete on-line surveys from which a learning profile will be generated. There are accompanying resources for the teachers, parents and students based on the profile. Kerri and Lynn are presently having conversations with the company regarding the implementation plan. The Council supports the current and proposed program.

**3. Foreign Language Textbook Adoption:** Peter Burgos, Maria Stillo. Nina Phipps. The Foreign Language Department has requested a new textbook for Italian. The process and rationale were discussed. The Council supports this adoption. The textbook adoption will now proceed to the BOE and will be on the April 25<sup>th</sup> agenda.

**4. High School Mini-Course Update:** Ed Bolan explained that all of the courses currently being offered and those that are being proposed have all come to the Council. The only change is the elimination next year of the SAT course due to budget reductions.

5. **Project Lead the Way Update:** Lynn updated the Council on the recent events at the BOE. Additional monies became available, and the BOE voted to include in the 07-08 budget \$ 150,000 for the implementation of Phase I of the Project Lead the Way Program. A powerpoint was presented previously to the BOE (attached) and print materials about the program were distributed again. The Phase I would include equipping two rooms at SOMS and one at TZHS; implementing two modules of study at SOMS and three courses at TZHS. The materials etc will be ordered after our budget passes, and training will begin. But, we do not anticipate implementing the program until the 08-09 school year.

**Next meeting:** Our last meeting for the year is scheduled for **May 22**. Please email to me ASAP any items, programs, etc that you would like on the agenda. I was planning on having the Technology Committee Update (by Mrinalini), Balanced Literacy Cohort (Stephanie Acito and me). Is there anything else I am forgetting?

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Attachment