

MONTROSE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER
MEETING DATE: SEPTEMBER 30, 2010 7:00 P.M.

Mrs. Pam Staats
Chairman

Mr. Michael F. Ognosky
Superintendent of Schools

Curriculum Committee Meeting

I. September 30, 2010 Curriculum Committee meeting began at 7:00 PM in the Community Learning Center of the Junior-Senior High School.

II. Board Members Present: Chairperson Pam Staats,

Administrators Present: Mike Ognosky and Jim Tallarico

Teachers Present: Mary Beth Ohmnacht and John Koloski

III. The following items under Old Business were discussed at this evening's meeting:

- **Dual Enrollment Update:** Mrs. Ohmnacht (Guidance Director) and Mr. Tallarico (High School Principal) presented information that they had researched regarding the potential for a Dual Enrollment program at the High School. In the course of their research they discussed the program with High School Administration and Guidance personnel that currently have a dual enrollment program, reviewed actual dual enrollment agreements between local school districts and colleges; and, spoke to college personnel in registrar offices. Here is a review of the information presented:
 - The contracts that they have reviewed are a standard agreement with very little variation between schools. Current cost of dual enrollment courses is \$300 in our area. Students take high school courses with their current high school teachers utilizing the current high school curriculum for that course and receive college credit for their efforts. The college certifies both the curriculum and the instructor prior to the course being scheduled.
 - High Schools are offering a wide variety of subjects in Social Studies, Math, English, Science, Foreign Languages. Students schedule the course through the regular spring scheduling process. The same course can be taken as a dual enrollment course or as a regular high school course. There is not a special dual enrollment section for classes. A dual enrollment student is identified by the high school and also enrolls through the registrar's office of the college. They are subject to the same drop/add requirements as are in the college calendar and that drop would remain on their permanent college transcript.
 - In her discussions with college registrar personnel, Mrs. Ohmnacht found that dual enrollment credit is easily transferrable from one college to another as long as it is not in the student's major. For example, a pre-med major would not easily be able to transfer a Chemistry credit, but

would easily transfer an English credit. A student who gets a dual enrollment credit from Lackawanna would very easily be able to transfer that credit to Scranton, Bloomsburg, Penn State, etc.

- Dual Enrollment opportunities would be limited to 11th and 12th grade students.
 - The college reviews the credentials of the teachers and the curriculum and gives the final approval on what courses would be offered dual enrollment and if the teacher is acceptable as an instructor.
 - Our Guidance Department supplies the final grade to the college.
 - Guidance will make contacts with current dual enrollment colleges in our area and the High School Administration will develop the dual enrollment agreements.
 - The goal is to establish a dual enrollment program to coincide with the scheduling process for the 2011-2012 school year and to have dual enrollment classes in operation with the beginning of the next school year.
 - Mr. Tallarico and Mrs. Ohmnacht will also be investigating grant money that is available for the purpose of assisting students in paying dual enrollment tuition.
- **Advanced Placement Revision Update:** Mr. Tallarico, Mrs. Ohmnacht and Mr. Koloski discussed the revisions that have been made to the Advanced Placement program and the affect that has had on the overall program:
 - All three began by thanking the board for the support in allowing the changes that were made to the program.
 - The Advanced Placement teachers thoroughly enjoyed the interview and selection process and all felt that it resulted in class rosters that were very representative of Advanced Placement class rosters.
 - They have really observed a difference in performance and dedication with the students that are enrolled.
 - In discussion the scheduling process with both Mrs. Ohmnacht and Mr. Tallarico, they had very little resistance from parents in attempting to circumvent the selection process and placing their child in an Advanced Placement course.
 - Mr. Koloski praised the decision making processes of the students that he interviewed. He felt students truly made wise decisions in selecting the Advanced Placement courses on their schedules.

IV. The following items were discussed under New Business at this evening's meeting:

- **2010-2011 Curriculum Action Teams Update:** Mr. Ognosky explained that the subject areas in this year's curriculum review cycle include Science, Health/Physical Education, and Library Science. This is the first opportunity to review the Science curriculum since the establishment of the PSSA Science test in grades 4, 7 and 10. That will allow the Science curriculum to be mapped to those standards and the expectations at specific grade levels. The building principals have been asked to get potential CAT team members to Mr. Ognosky by next Wednesday and the scheduling of curriculum review meetings will then begin.
- **Update of Secondary Life Skills Program:** The Secondary Life Skills program is up and running and all curriculum and room materials are in place. Mr. Schank has the students moving forward in the curriculum as well as scheduling a number of field trip visits to local businesses, etc.

D. Open Forum – Mr. Koloski commented on the early performance of his 11th grade English classes and an overall concern he has seen in the first few weeks of school regarding reading and writing skills. He explained that the English Department is continuing to refine the breakdown of the writing process by grade level and hopes that this will lead to an improvement in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Mike Ognosky

Mike Ognosky, Superintendent