

South *Huntington Union Free School District* Curriculum Council

Minutes from the Wednesday, September 27, 2023 Meeting

4:30 p.m.

JKAO Professional Development Room

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

Attendees: Dr. John Murphy - Facilitator

Dr. Gayle Steele	Ms. Linda LaCara
Mr. Michael Duggan	Ms. Mari Hahn
Mr. Mitch Levy	Mr. Andrew Bronson
Mr. William Hender	Mr. Corey Blair
Mr. David Barth	

1) The Minutes of the 5/17/23 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

Curriculum and Instruction Goals 22-23

Secondary Goals [Murphy]

Continuation of goals for 22-23 is ongoing. We continue to see success in the increasing number of students taking AP and college level courses during high school. It just doesn't start at one grade level. It is a continuation of identifying at an early age the students who need support to make sure they are prepared to take AP and college level courses during high school. Our goal was 20 percent over 3 years and we surpassed that goal which is a testament to our teachers, staff and administration. We will continue the goal for the next 3 years and ask for another 15 percent increase. At that point we would have a 40 percent increase over 6 years on the amount of students taking AP and college level courses. This is a tremendous number and we are halfway there.

The other goal we had at the secondary level is something that Corey can expand upon. Although we have 91 percent of our students who graduate and attend college, we still have the other 9 percent that do not attend college or they don't know what they want to pursue. Our goal is for students to come back five years after graduation being successful in the path they choose. We have now partnered with BOCES to give internship opportunities to students in vocational or professional programs. Corey wants students to be college and career ready once they graduate high school. We

currently offer 18 courses, Regents level courses, college level courses and Advanced Placement courses. One of the things we wanted to do to benefit students is to increase our internship opportunities so 2 or 3 years ago we had Tracy D'Alonzo, who works with BOCES, start to come in to work with our students two days a week. Tracy came in and hit the ground running with listening to students regarding their choices of internships and what they wanted on their transcripts. We now have over 21 internship opportunities. This opportunity gives students time to decide if they really want to pursue a certain career or if, in fact, they decide to pursue something completely different.

Every Tuesday, Corey sends out an update of internship opportunities that goes to Junior and Senior parents and students. Corey wants to make sure there is conversation at home with students and parents which will lead to appointments with Ms. D'Alonzo to get more information on the particular program they are interested in. We also have the law firm that is now located across the street from Whitman which will come and do push-ins at Whitman to discuss the different types of law the students can pursue. Corey continually reminds parents that he wants all students to be college and career ready and wants this to trickle down to younger grades. Students will visit the elementary schools and let them know about the classes and activities that are available at the high school so the younger students will realize just how awesome the high school is.

Elementary Goals [Steele]

- Continued Review of Curriculum:
 - Pilot of phonics program at the primary level - a lot of goals are staying the same. Curriculum is addressing some of our phonics programs. We are currently implementing Heggerty and Kindergarten teachers will finish up their training Friday. If we want to continue, we will roll it out to K-1 next year.
 - Additional resources for Special Ed programs - students who are in classified integrated co-teaching classrooms will be receiving specialized reading services in the classroom with their special ed teachers. Teachers will be using the Sonday program to better support the students in the classroom which will limit the amount of time they are being pulled out of the classroom for services.
 - Enrichment for all through STREAM - through our STREAM/STEM program the tech coaches in the building do a lot of work around coding in particular classes, especially in intermediate, but we would like all classes to go through the program. The tech coaches are coordinating programs with the librarians so they can reach every child in every class.
 - Roll out of Ready Mathematics in Grade 6 - i-Ready Math is being implemented in grade 6 so now we have i-Ready implemented in K-6. We are anticipating rolling it out to K-8 by the end of next year.
 - Continued roll out of Science Investigations - We continue working on the two year plan started last year. Last year we began rolling out the investigations program. This year every child in Grade 5 and Grade 8

must be prepared to sit for the test. They have to have been exposed to all Science Investigations. We are setting up the schedule for them as we speak.




- Support Tier II classroom instruction - we will continue to support our teachers with Tier II instruction in the classroom. The goal is to try and keep students in their classrooms as much as possible so we will be targeting them through small group instruction in their classroom. The Principal will work with Gayle on goals for observations for this year to support teachers with this type of instruction
 - Accountability - We will continue to look at data in particular after i-Ready and benchmark assessments. Each building has their team to look at data and make adjustments to services and programs that are administered to students and they will make adjustments as needed.
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- Culturally Responsive Practices:
 - District DEI Committee - We are starting a District DEI committee this year. It consists of teachers, parents and Board members. We are looking to advertise to the teachers by the end of the month. Our goal this year is to create a mission statement for our District. We want everyone in our District to feel respected and successful. Part of that is our work with Tracey Edwards. We work with her two-fold. We work with her as part of a BOCES CoSer and we work with her when she comes in and works with our teachers in the classroom.
 - WSBOCES CoSer - Education Pipeline – BOCES CoSers is an education pipeline we are trying to create. We already have classes in place at the high school. We currently have over 100 students that are looking to see if they are interested in teaching. We have been trying to diversify our teaching staff for some time.
 - Future Teachers Club at Stimson - we want to see how many of our students are interested in teaching. In addition to the course, we want to form a Future Teachers Club.
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- Increase Literacy and Math Scores, Grades K-6 utilizing iReady Data:
 - 10% increase of typical growth in ELA over a 2 year period (2023-2025)
 - Focus: Vocabulary, Overall Comprehension
 - 10% increase of typical growth in Math over a 2 year period (2023-2025)
 - Focus: Measurement & Data, Geometry - Data goals are always to improve our scores and specifically look at those students who need to increase their scores in specific areas.

Plagiarism Policy

ChatGPT - It is interesting to see how it is affecting and turning the professional and educational world a little bit on its head. Google also has a similar program. It is a lot more user friendly than it was a year ago. The ChatGPT program is a lot different than it

was a year ago. It has become more widely used and more user friendly. There are so many different variants of the program. We can give training and professional development and talk with the PTA, but have to define exactly what plagiarism is at all school levels. We do not currently have a policy in place in South Huntington. Dr. Murphy is currently working on defining a policy and has looked at a couple other policies from other school districts. Dr. Murphy feels it would be good to have a policy in place. However, he does not want to rush it as the policy could affect grades, transcripts and significantly hurt someone's academic standing. Some plagiarism policies disqualify valedictorians and salutatorians. The policy could have several consequences. We will have to define plagiarism as a Council and what the best policy would be and how we will implement the policy. This will be a driving topic and we may have to devote a couple of meetings to review this topic and make sure everyone is on the same page. Dr. Murphy also feels a workshop on this topic would be beneficial.

AP/RegentsData Review [WWHS/J Murphy]

-  Review of Secondary AP/Regents Data 2022-2023
- Current trends in AP enrollment
 -  AP Comparisons SixYears
 -  AP Trends

All of you were at the last Board Meeting where we presented the AP/Regents scores. We are really seeing some good dividends with more and more students taking AP classes. Most feel the Regent's are not going away. We are seeing some serious dividends with Regent's and feel that is why we have such a high acceptance rate in college. We will now start to identify students not moving forward and try to see if there is a different pathway for these students. John and Gayle presented in Seattle. They were invited to a dinner by a group that were looking for districts they would charge in order to bring up their AP scores. We are already past their suggestions. That was a testament to what we were doing. We are the standout group. We got honored with a Magna Award Silver Medal for the work we did. The National School Board Association asked us to put out a proposal to present next year again at the National level and our proposal was accepted. Finally, we are happy to announce that Niche.com just moved us to the top five schools in Suffolk County. The high school is number 3.

Instructional Rounds Update [Toto/Hender]

- POP Meeting- Item of Focus - ???
- Andrew Rudd- PLC Associates

Maplewood teachers and staff members, already trained through Andrew previously, met with him again on September 12th and it was a very valuable meeting. It was a great meeting focusing on their problem of practice. Problem of practice is something

we care about that would make a difference in student learning. Maplewood had a great brainstorming session. After the session Andrew gave the staff homework and they had a follow-up session on September 20th. All the Instructional Rounds staff members got together to discuss how they would present all this to the Maplewood staff. Maplewood will discuss the Instructional Rounds at their 10/2 Faculty Meeting. This is the last group Andrew will be training. Our goal is to have the leaders of Instructional Rounds hold building rounds and have teachers learn from their colleagues.


Regents Grade Weighting [Murphy]

- Changed to 20 percent for all Finals/Regents exams
- Waiting on Blue Ribbon Decision from NYSED

We are at 20 percent for Regent's final. We voted on that decision in June. Everyone was in agreement but our biggest concern was the Special Education population. We spoke about how the finals could be presented differently. Finals do not have to be scantrons and finals could be project based or performance based but has to be 20 percent across the board for all finals.

We are still awaiting the Blue Ribbon Decision from NYSED and hope to know by December.

District Professional Development Plan [J.Murphy]

- Review and update of 3 year PD plan for District
 -  Professional Learning Plan 2022-2025

We already approved the Professional Learning Plan. It is a 3 year plan we approved though we have to review every year. PD goes from 2022-2025. We have the plan on the computer and have a hard copy. We voted and all agreed to continue the Professional Development Plan.

New programs

- Ready Math (6th grade) [Toto/M.Murphy]
Dr. Steele spoke about the program. We have to push this off until November or December since Matt is the one doing the Math program and Gayle will work with him.

Summer School Update [C.Blair]

- 140 Students/245 Courses- Grades 9-12
- 41 Students/ 74 Courses- Grades 7-8
- 16 Students/Math & Literacy- Grade 6
- 186 Students - Grades K-5

Two new topics that John wants to continue to talk about with the Curriculum Council is Summer School and the ineffectiveness at the secondary levels. We already started and have had a lot of success with our Credit Recovery Program at the high school. We started the Credit Recovery Program three years ago because students would get high scores in Summer School but fail the Regent's with a very low grade. Credit recovery starts at 2:30pm and runs until 5:30pm. We do three 52 minute periods. We are starting a similar program at Stimson in grades 7 and 8 - the LIT program. We are seeing big lags in literacy. We feel it will have a big effect on reading skills. We do feel Stimson students will benefit from this program.