

MINUTES

The Standing Committee on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Life Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Members Present: Dr. Marie Galinski, Assistant Superintendent; Ms. Annemarie Cesa;
Ms. Maria Decker; Mr. David Manzi; Mr. Joe Clement;
Ms. Beverly Dolinsky; Ms. Samantha Rosenberg

Members Absent: Ms. Rachel Konaxis; Ms. Amy Pasquarello; Mr. Aaron Swiniuch

Also in Attendance: Mr. James Latter; Ms. Barbara Vienneau

Ms. Cesa called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I Approval of Minutes From Wednesday, January 3, 2007

Action Item: A copy of the minutes from the Wednesday, January 3, 2007 meeting was distributed to the committee.

After a brief discussion, Ms. Cesa moved and Dr. Dolinsky seconded to approve the minutes from the Wednesday, January 3, 2007 meeting.

So Voted

II Update of the Mass Cultural Council Grant 2006-2008 - Mr. Joe Clement

A copy of a document entitled Beverly Public Schools, Creative Schools Project Grant dated May 2006 and a copy of a document entitled Technology/Engineering, Grades Pre-K-8 showing Grades 3-5 was distributed to the committee.

Mr. Clement noted that elementary science kits are still used in grades K-5 for Earth, Physical, and Life Science for grades K-5. However, right now there is no technology/engineering kits in grades K-5. The goal is to develop curriculum for Technology/Engineering for Grades 3-5 under this grant.

Mr. Clement believes that in implementing the new Technology/Engineering curriculum under the Mass Cultural Council Grant that they will be able to include energy awareness and conservation. The grant awarded is for \$14,400 for this year and is mostly used for payment for two specialists to write the lessons. Teachers are critiquing the lessons and will be implementing them next year. The plan is to have the Technology/Engineering curriculum in place in every grade next year.

III Elementary Homework Guidelines

A copy of the Elementary Homework Guidelines was distributed to the committee for their information and input. The document will be incorporated into the Elementary Handbook to

give parents more structure to guidelines. It also gives parents an idea of what is realistic and it is helpful to teachers in determining time allotments for homework.

IV Update on Change in AYP Determinations - High School Graduation Rates 2006

A copy of the Massachusetts Department of Education Cohort 2006 4-year Graduation Rates was distributed to the committee. Dr. Galinski stated that the Department of Education is changing the way they determine AYP for high schools by looking at graduation rates. This is a new category for AYP. Promotion Guidelines at Beverly High need to be looked at and also where students are going after graduation and who dropped out. It was also decided to look at what we have in place in middle school (particularly in 7th grade) at the next meeting.

V Update on Virtual High School at the High School - Mr. Joe Clement

A copy of a list for fall and spring classes for Virtual High School was distributed to the committee. Mr. Clement explained that VHS is an On-Line Learning Model with a yearly cost of \$6,500. The program provides about 25 spaces each semester with 1 teacher. In using the on-line model, our students are also taught from teachers from other member districts and our teacher teaches students from other member districts. Most lessons are discussion thread-based on-line and have less than a 12 hour feedback. Lessons can also be done at home. It was noted that the course is listed on the report card as just VHS. It was suggested that the name be changed to reflect the name of the course. Dr. Galinski will speak with Maddy August regarding this. It was noted that it takes about a year to train a teacher for this program. The question was asked should we train another teacher. Mr. Clement will provide more historical data so that a determination can be made.

VI ELL Enrollment and Programs at Beverly Public Schools

Dr. Galinski distributed a copy of a document entitled ESL Students in Beverly Public Schools for 2006-2007. The document shows the number of students enrolled, where they are located and in what grades. The document also shows that there are 12 different languages spoken by students in this program and that Portuguese and Spanish are the majority of them. The question was asked "What does ELL stand for?" Dr. Galinski stated that ELL stands for English Language Learner, LEP is Limited English Proficient, ESL (English as a Second Language) is the instruction and SEI is the structured Model.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

The next meeting for the Standing Committee on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Life is scheduled for Wednesday, March 7, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Annemarie Cesa, M.Ed., Chairperson
Beverly School Committee