

## MINUTES

### **The Standing Committee on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Life Wednesday, September 5, 2006**

Members Present: Dr. James Hayes, Superintendent; Dr. Marie Galinski, Assistant Superintendent; Ms. Annemarie Cesa; Ms. Maria Decker; Mr. David Manzi; Mr. Joe Clement; Ms. Amy Pasquarello; Dr. Beverly Dolinsky (arrived 7:35)

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

Also in Attendance: Ms. Nancy Brusil; Mr. Paul Manzo; Mr. James Latter; Ms. Debra O'Connor; Ms. Karen Wilk; Ms. Barbara Vienneau

Ms. Cesa called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

#### **I Approval of minutes from Wednesday, May 31, 2006**

Action Item: A copy of the minutes from the Wednesday, May 31, 2006 meeting was distributed to the committee.

After a brief discussion, Ms. Cesa moved and Ms. Decker seconded to approve the minutes from the Wednesday, May 31, 2006 meeting.

**So Voted**

#### **11 Overview of the District Special Education Programs – Ms. Debbie O'Connor**

Ms. O'Connor distributed a document showing all the Special Education Programs for the 2006-2007 school year. She noted that a lot of the programs are supported by grants. About 1,011 students are being serviced through the special education department with a staff of about 100. In addition to the staff of 100 there are about 80 ESP's (Extra Support Personnel). All students have individual educational plans (IEP's). Approximately 102 of these students are placed out of district. Ms. O'Connor introduced Ms. Karen Wilk who handles all outside placements for the special education department. One of the initiatives for the 2006-2007 school year is E-Child which is a pre-referral program. The goal of using this program is to bring more effective support and consistency throughout the whole school system in regular education and to reduce special education referrals.

#### **III District Improvement Plan and Related Professional Development Plan**

A copy of the Beverly Public Schools District Improvement and Related Professional Development Plan was distributed to the committee. The plan is based on four essential

questions. The plan is a compilation of Dr. Hayes's, Dr. Galinski's, and the Administration Cabinet's goals.

Dr. Hayes was asked about the Tile Program coming back. He said he would contact people in Salem to see if they still have the program. If they do not he said he would check into other avenues to support administrative growth.

#### **IV Overview of the District Foreign Language Program - Mr. Doug Guy, Program Director for Foreign Language 7-12**

A copy of *Education For Global Leadership - The Importance of International Studies and Foreign Language Education for US. Economic and National Security* was distributed to the committee. Also a copy of the "*ACTFL Position Statement*" was distributed (a national professional membership organization representing over 8,500 language educators). Mr. Guy stated that 700 hours of instruction is needed to be proficient in any one language. The ideal situation would be to have a 7 year track in our system. We are now doing a minimal level of teaching languages starting at the 9th grade level. Seventy percent of students enrolled in foreign languages are enrolled in Spanish. We need to have other options for our students. Information shows the need for our students to be more informed about customs and languages around the world. Dr. Galinski stated that we need to have a discussion about where we want to go with foreign languages.

Ms. Cesa asked if the administration could look into a sign language program at the high school. (maybe something for after school) so that students could learn to communicate with the hearing impaired students at the high school from Beverly for the Deaf.

The committee voted to table the rest of the agenda for the next meeting which included the following items:

- a. School Council Guidelines 2006-2007
- b. Beverly Public Schools Internal Assessment Data
- c. District Assessment Calendar 2006-2007

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

The next meeting for the Standing Committee on Curriculum, Instruction and Student Life is scheduled for Thursday, October 5, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

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