

DRAFT

REGULAR MEETING – CURRICULUM/PROGRAMS & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
Litchfield Board of Education
Thursday, March 10, 2011, District Office Conference Room, 6:30 p.m.

Meeting called to order at 6:29 p.m.

Members Present: Ms. Fabbri (chair), Ms. Rosser, Mr. Shuhi and Mr. Katzin (at 6:45 p.m.).
Also present: Mr. Simone, Dr. Wheeler, Ms. Longobucco, Ms. Murphy, Ms. Della Volpe, and Mr. Buccitelli.

Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 10, 2011

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Ms. Rosser: to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 10, 2011 as written.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

Communications – None

Public Comment – None

Old Business –

- a. Follow up to Gender Parity discussion - review and discussion about writing instruction K-12 (Dr. Wheeler). Center School Writers Workshop; LIS new Empowering Writers; LHS writing embedded across the curriculum. Reviewed K-3 skills checklist and prompt data; 4-6 prompt data.
- b. Leadership Advisory Council update – reviewed Leadership Council meeting minutes of March 1, 2011 (Dr. Wheeler). Overarching context derived from Elmore’s (2009) Instructional Core: Interaction among Students, Teachers and Content. We have honed in on the Teacher’s professional practice and drilled down to “Instruction” as our area for focus using Danielson’s (2007) *Enhancing Professional Practice: A Framework for Teaching, 2nd edition* to frame discussion around our professional practice. Next meeting scheduled for April 4th to plan professional learning activities for professional development days 2011-2012

New Business –

- a. 7-12 LA Curriculum presentation - (Debbie Dove) Pulling together all threads of English/LA skills 7-12 through new curriculum documents; 7th and 8th grades students have similar experiences; 9th to 12th differentiation through Academic, Honors and AP courses. Explicit instruction in grammar back in curriculum; common formative assessments now in all courses; Common Planning Time beneficial; need more K-12 conversation regarding Language Arts curriculum and instruction; block

schedule beneficial for teaching English/LA. Needs: more non-fiction text; software to identify plagiarism

- b. Update on LHS Course of Studies - Registration for courses for 2011-2012 ends during the last week of March; this is the first time building the schedule through PowerSchool; no decisions made yet on which courses may not run due to lack of enrollment; question regarding the “add/drop” process: students can elect to make changes after the school year starts until the end of the 1st quarter; question regarding the potential change to a Middle School block schedule: at end of March administration and guidance will review the 7th and 8th grade course selections; question regarding UConn Calculus: staffing change for AP Calculus left no teacher with qualifications to teach UConn level calculus; course being offered this summer at UConn Torrington, credit earned will be added to LHS transcript; question regarding independent study option: must be identified 3 weeks before the course starts; using Capstone as a model
- c. Update on World Language Program of Studies – long term plan to continue to offer Spanish, French and Latin; for 2010-2011 French added to curriculum at LIS; at this time course selections at LHS indicate that fewer students are enrolling in entry level Latin courses; no data yet on Spanish or French enrollments.
- d. Review LIS building schedule – reviewed history from 2006/2007 to present; current format designed as developmentally appropriate: 4th and 5th elementary model, 6th grade middle school model with more integrated curriculum; hours of instruction in Language Arts now better aligned with SDE expectations.
- e. Budget Discussion – Proposed LIS Science/Supplemental Skills position – increased opportunity for more authentic Science content aligned with frameworks, writing and research skills; in grades 4 and 5 concern that content is not being delivered as richly as desired; current 3rd graders have had Science since Kindergarten: collecting own data; 6th grade Science aligned with the middle school curriculum and practice; new LEA contract facilitates using classroom teacher time to work in other classrooms conducting guided reading groups or remediation activities when their assigned class is in Science; Science teacher also 0.4 FTE in supplemental skills.
- f. Director of Business Operations – review contract – Board needs to respond to the Director regarding contract renewal by April 1st. Refer to full Board meeting on March 16th.

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Ms. Rosser: to added New Business item
g. Discussion of AFSCME proposal for retirement incentive.

MOTION carried. All votes were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

- g. Discussion of AFSCME proposal for retirement incentive – Dr. Wheeler explained the proposal from the bargaining unit as reductions in three paraprofessional positions are in adopted 2011-2012 budget. Committee agreed that a proposed Memorandum of Agreement be brought to the full Board meeting on March 16th.

Future Agenda Items -

- a. Math 7-12 Curriculum

MOTION made by Mr. Shuhi and seconded by Ms. Rosser: to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

MOTION carried. All voters were in the affirmative. There were no abstentions.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Deborah S. Wheeler