

East Greenbush Central School District
ADMINISTRATION CENTER

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James McHugh
Principal on Assignment

East Greenbush Central School District
COMMITTEE FOR CURRICULUM STUDY (CCS)
Administration – Board Conference Room
Wednesday, April 26, 2017 – 3:30 p.m.

1. Attendance:

Meagan Asenbauer, English Department Chairperson
Jill Barker, Assistant Principal, Goff Middle School
Thomas Brownell, Teacher, Red Mill Elementary School
John Caporta, Principal, Red Mill Elementary School
Sean Crall, Teacher, Goff Middle School
Frank DiDonato, Math Department Chairperson
Melissa Dupont, Reading 6-12 Department Chairperson
Steve Ford, CTE Chairperson
Wayne Grignon, Principal, Goff Middle School
Katrina Gruet, CHS Business Teacher
Scott Halliday, Music Department Chairperson
Elizabeth Hart, Teacher, DPS Elementary School
Sarah Hoffman, Interim Assistant Principal, Columbia High School
Chris Hosley, Physical Education Department Chairperson
Katelyn Ingham, Librarian, Columbia High School
Tammy Kirwin, Goff Middle School Special Education Teacher
Lisa Mahar, Teacher, Red Mill
Tara Maney, Special Education Department Chairperson
Brian Marsh, CAP Department Chairperson
Wendy McAlonie, Social Studies Department Chairperson
James McHugh, Principal on Assignment
Allison Milazzo, Guidance Department Chairperson
Andrea Neiman, Art Department Chairperson
Thomas Ross, Science Department Chairperson
Christine Rudzinski, Teacher, Genet Elementary School
Jeffrey Simons, Superintendent of Schools
Helen Squillace, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
JoAnn Taylor, Board of Education Member
Carol Willis, Elementary Reading Department Chairperson

2. Approval of Minutes (02/15/2017)

Motion to Approve:

Second:

3. CURRICULUM TREASURER'S REPORT

NA

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **New Textbook/Graphic Novel Proposal for Grade 7 English** (S. Crall) of *March* by Congressman John Lewis. Sean presented handouts and a PowerPoint presentation regarding *March*, the graphic novel written by Congressman John Lewis, that won the National Book Award. The seventh-grade ELA teachers are seeking approval of this text to include in the curriculum as a graphic novel. It was stressed that a focus on frank dialogue, open communication and parental communication regarding the text will be included with all teachers, students and parents.

Motion to Recommend the Grade 7 Novel, March by Congressman John Lewis to Move Forward to the Superintendent:

Seconded by:

- b. **Brief Summary of Summer Curriculum Writing Proposals**

Process: Jim explained that funds were not available as planned, so it was critical to review the many proposals and allocate funds as deemed appropriate. A review of all summer curriculum writing proposals was offered for review.

- c. **Comprehensive Guidance Plan (Allison Milazzo and Ashley Rickson)** - To be discussed at the May 17, 2017 meeting

- d. **Curriculum Project Presentations** - To be discussed at a future meeting:

- i. Introduction to Security Curriculum (Jeff Tooker)
- ii. Algebra IA (Sarah Noel, Scott Monuteaux)
- iii. Fifth Grade Math Blasts (Sue Schreck)
- iv. Nonfiction SS Literature Embedded in the ELA Curriculum 7th Grade (Sean Crall)
- v. Sixth Grade English Language Arts Curriculum Writing Project (Jaclyn Timmany-White)
- vi. American Perspectives Revision (Kara Macpherson)

- e. **Discussion regarding the purpose and intent of CCS**

- i. Curriculum policies
- ii. Program Reviews
- iii. Curriculum management
- iv. Direction moving forward

- Jim reviewed the purpose of the Committee of Curriculum Study (CCS) and its role in advising various groups within the school district. He pointed out the schedule of Five-Year Program Reviews from 2014-15

through 2018-19. Within this discussion, it was pointed out that it may be time to revisit how and when we perform the reviews, based on

- **Questions Discussed:**
 - *Is there a curriculum cycle?*
 - *If so, is it followed?*
 - *Are there any specifications for curriculum development?*
- Jim requested that we review the official handbook regarding CCS and its role and responsibilities and be prepared to discuss questions, comments, etc. at future meetings. We reviewed the Board of Ed and District policies pertaining to curriculum development and curriculum management and how this committee is the avenue to communication for change.
- Steve Ford commented that throughout the past few years, the STEM classes have been presented as part of a Program Review, but asked that it be clarified that they are not; that STEM is simply a concept, but some classes are part of the Business and Math departments.
- Helen Squillace then commented that this is also a concern for things such as AIS management, library media specialists, among other things, that do not necessarily fall under the role of a specific director.
- Scott Halliday then pointed out the importance of having a consistent person in leading CCS to promote familiarity and consistency from year to year, program to program.
- Tammy Kirwin asked what may be done to promote more interest in increasing the number of teachers and administrators at each meeting.
- Jim responded that there are presently conversations occurring to change this.
- Lisa Mahar commented that within recent years, the conversations around the table have revolved much more around middle and high school issues, rather than the elementary school.

f. New Course Proposal: *Apex Digital Blended Learning Program: Summer Math Remediation Proposal 2017*

- Wayne Grignon shared that the middle school staff is in search of a program to help struggling eighth-graders be more successful over the summer before entering Columbia in September. This would provide a digital solution that provides an opportunity for remediation of skills and concepts that are needed to take on high school level math courses with confidence. Eighth-graders who failed Math in the 2016-2017 academic year would be invited to attend a four-week program four days a week (two hours a day) for four weeks. Wayne stressed that this is an opportunity to assess each student's strengths and weaknesses to allow the math teachers to target different modalities and tools to teach the students and engage these at-risk students. They are looking at targeting 15 - 20 students and train the two teachers who would be working with these students. Steve Ford asked if there has been a discussion that the

Goff computers are able to run the Apex program. Wayne responded that they are unable to, but the students will be using the Chromebooks. Sarah Hoffman then reviewed that after speaking with someone from APEX, there are 30 licenses that can be used for individual students as singletons, rather than purchasing additional multi-user licenses for this program. The tutorial licenses are for a single course. Tara Maney then added that she worked with a blended learning community last summer with JumpStart students and Operation Graduation students, and that the students found an appeal to going to Columbia during the summer rather than Goff, and that it promoted a familiarity for students before becoming students at Columbia in September.

Motion to Recommend the Apex Digital Learning Math Program
Move Forward to the Superintendent: Tom Ross
Seconded by Sarah Hoffman

5. OLD BUSINESS

NA

6. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NA

7. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

NA

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting: Frank DiDonato
Seconded by: Jill Barker