

Education Committee meeting January 12, 2012

Members: S. Gellar, A. LaRosa, R. Simon, B. Burns, M. Parvey

Also in attendance: S. Brady, R. Maginniss

The meeting convened at 7:25 p.m.

I. Curriculum Updates

Mrs. Burns shared that the Curriculum Council will be exploring the value of adding a Calculus course to the course offerings in mathematics at its next meeting. Currently, the district offers Pre-Calculus, but seniors who have completed their math sequence can only enroll in college-level Calculus courses at the high school. This is not a realistic option for all students.

As the first step in the scheduling process for next year, the High School Course Enrollment Handbook will be posted on the district website by the end of the week. Further information is forthcoming.

On Monday, January 9, over 200 parents attended an informational workshop presented by four of our current IB students, who talked about the program and the impact it has had on their learning. The number of students who participate in the program, particularly to earn IB certificates for individual courses, continues to grow.

II. Instructional Updates

Over the last two weeks, many of our district administrators attended workshops at BOCES that targeted the changes brought about by the implementation of the Common Core Learning Standards. Additionally, all administrators have now completed two of a series of workshops that address the teacher observation process.

On Monday, January 9, Mrs. Burns and Dr. Parvey met with the APPR Committee to discuss how best to align the teacher observation document with the New York State Teaching and Learning Standards. The committee's next meeting is January 30.

Mrs. Huscilowitc is in the process of developing a schedule for continued SMART Board training this spring for all faculty.

Professional development in the implementation of the Common Core Learning Standards in math was completed at the primary level, with second grade training conducted on January 10. Demonstration lessons for all primary

teachers K-2 will take place the week of January 23, 2012. Teachers at the intermediate level will begin Common Core Math training on February 28, 2012. Dr. Parvey shared information about work being completed by kindergarten and first grade teachers on a Reading and Writing Calendar. Once completed, the calendars will serve as a curriculum guide which will be posted for parents on the district website.

III. New York State Updates

The state has finally announced its testing dates for grades 3 through 8. The English Language Arts test will be administered on April 17 through 19. The math test will be offered on April 25 through 27. West Islip will once again participate in the regional scoring process, eliminating the need to close school for two or more days to score the tests in-house.

IV. Miscellaneous

Midterm exams will be administered at the high school January 18 through 20, and RCTs and Regents exams will be administered January 24 through 27.

The district is in the process of rolling out My Learning Plan, an online system designed for the planning, management, and reporting of professional development workshops and offerings. Newly certified teachers are required to complete 175 hours of continuing education over the course of five years, and the district is required to maintain this information. My Learning Plan will facilitate this process.

Earlier this week, the high school began to use School Messenger, the district's automated notification system, to alert parents to their child's absences, be it partial or full day. The hope is that a more efficient and timely method of communicating absences will result in better attendance at the high school level.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.