

Franklin City Schools: Curriculum Council Meeting
February 5, 2008

In attendance: Steve Buerschen, Dee Sellers, Dan Darragh, David Gregory, Meagan Engle, Michelle Cash, Paula Ruppert, Tom Pecor, Robyn Donisi, Lisa Insenga, Jim McFarland, Sherry Terrill, Peggy Darragh-Jeromos, Doug Lantz, Micheline Kidwell, and Gloria Williams

I. Frequency, length of meetings: The council considered whether to have longer meetings or to add meetings, as the agendas are usually quite full. Adding meetings was the preferred option and the new schedule will be to meet on “odd” months during the school year: September, November, January, March, and May.

II. Standards-based grading: Tom Pecor reported on work done by a task force of all the first and second grade teachers to examine standards-based grading. The curriculum council had read an article about this and suggested that the district study the idea. The task force had additional information from the author and considered how to adapt his concepts and feedback into a workable system for our district. The task force also compared Franklin’s report card to those of other districts and found others had broken reading and math into subcategories that are helpful to parents to know in which areas their children are doing well and on which they need to focus. The outcome that has been proposed is a much more detailed report card to be used for first and second graders. The same areas will be graded as before, but with additional detail based on the standards and benchmarks from the Ohio Department of Education.

Next steps will be to clean up a few details on the report card sheet, create a one-page explanation of each standard to accompany the report card, and adapt the new format to the on-line grade book, Progress Book. The council thanked the task force for its hard work.

III. Summer Reading Initiative: Dee Sellers and Lisa Insenga reported on the work of a committee who had developed a new summer reading program, “Reading Revolution,” which is designed to excite Franklin students to read for fun. The program will start with students in grades 3-6. Students will receive a free book and then during the summer read two additional books from a suggested list. The books will be available at the Franklin Public Library (extra copies will be purchased.) Students who do the reading and create a response (some type of “book report” from a list of many creative ideas including PowerPoint and art projects) will be able to participate in a Book Bash next fall.

The program will kick off in May with a celebration at the stadium with celebrities and conclude next fall with a visit to Books and Company to hear an author speak. (The latter will be for the grade level at each elementary that read the most books.)

Funding for the program was discussed. It is not firm yet; however, there are some Title monies available and several community members present felt that local groups such as Rotary may be very interested in supporting the program.

IV: PSAT Update: The council had asked the FHS guidance counselors and administration to consider FHS adopting a program like the one being used at Monroe schools to identify students

who should be urged to take the PSAT at district expense to get them in the running for National Merit scholarships. Mrs. Terrill had data from the 8th grade COGATS and found that there were 27 students (freshmen and sophomores) whose scores made them candidates to do well on the PSAT. The cost would be \$350. The council was in favor of going ahead with this program.

V. Advanced Biology: The council heard a proposal from the High School Science Department to change course offerings to drop Anatomy and Physiology and replace it with Advanced Biology and to drop regular Physics and (keep Honors Physics) and to add an Earth Science course for juniors and seniors. Reason for the changes is to better align our curriculum with the Ohio Department of Education course of study standards and to serve students who would like an Earth Sciences class at that level. The changes incur no additional costs. The council OK'ed the proposal.

VI. Community Services. The council heard a proposal to make two changes to the Community Services requirement: to allow students to begin accumulating hours after 8th grade and to move the percentage of hours permitted to be earned during the school day to 50% (up from the current 25%). These changes allow students more time to complete the requirement and are more closely aligned with the National Honor Society requirements. The council OK'ed the proposal.

VII. Title V Funds Consultation: Dr. Buerschen shared information about the Title V funds that the district receives. The district must have community input on how the \$ are spent. These funds are restricted to enhancing academic achievement, keeping students safe, and preventing students from dropping out. The current funding amount is \$4,866.70; of this, Fenwick's share is \$685.06 (FCS is the fiscal agent for their funds). Franklin's \$\$ are designated for tutoring (3,400); peer mediation programs (\$560); and summer school supplies (\$221.64). The council agreed that these were appropriate and reasonable programs on which to spend the funds.

Next meeting: March 19, 3 p.m. The agenda will include those items postponed from this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Darragh-Jeromos