



NEW HOPE-SOLEBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT
*Engaging, Enriching, and Empowering All Students
through a World-Class Education*

Curriculum Advisory Committee

September 5, 2019

District Office Conference Room

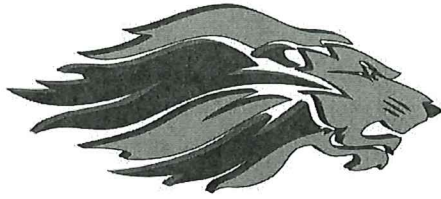
*Per BOG 006.2, all public meetings of the Board of Directors,
including committees, are audio recorded.*

- **Call to Order**
 - At 7:00 PM
- **Approve Minutes from the (5/2/19) CAC Meeting**
 - approved
- **Old Business**
 - None
- **New Business**
 - Membership to committee update
 - Welcome new member Katie Williams.
 - Overview of Professional Development for the 2019-2020 school year.
 - PBL, Year 2
 - Dr. Malone shared a video clip from a version of A.J. Juliani's keynote address about increasing choice and voice among students, and changing your model to move with the changing times.
 - He'll be coming back to do follow-up work.
 - Great feedback from the staff.
 - Continuing PBL work from last year.
 - Large influx of Spanish-speaking students at the HS level, that took us by surprise. Inspired staff to work on projects for Spanish 5 students to help and support them.
 - Some teachers getting trained in Launch Academy. Online academy with some physical meetings with A.J. Will turnkey to rest of the staff.
 - Grade level PLCs are planning together, and sending reps up to next grades or bands to ensure vertical alignment.

- As PBL is being implemented consistently, admins will be surveying kids, looking at engagement generally, looking at grades and scores to see if the initiative has real, positive effect.
- Piloted individualized PD last year; rolling out more widely this year.
 - Video PD series with menu of options.
 - Visiting with PLCs, teams and departments.
 - Year 3 of Best Practices Showcase—working to broaden to whole county.
- Ongoing work on SWPBIS and MTSS + rollout of No Place for Hate
 - SWPBIS Growing from ES up into MS this year.
 - MTSS with whole-child approach to include social and emotional learning with academics.
 - NPH starting this year at the MS-HS. Some resources being used at the UES, too.
- Curriculum review
 - RELA was writing focus last year.
 - 4th year of the cycle: no new subjects being written. This is a year of focus, refinement, and mapping.
- Ongoing Effective Educator training for administrators and teachers on the Danielson framework.
- New PDE mandates
 - Trauma-informed PD
 - Waiting on guidance from the state on what is required.
 - CPR instruction
 - Some already done at HS, but state wants a fuller delivery for certification.
 - Flexible Instructional Days (FID)
 - To address snow days: proposal to hold school days while kids stay at home on their devices, working through their LMSs. Still wrangling details and looking for state guidance.
 - Act 44: safe schools
 - ALICE
 - Safe2Say
- Title I, II, and IV Review (Federal Programs)
 - LES and UES have targeted Title I programs. No need for school-wide programs, given the small number of affected students.
 - Using our small amount allocated funds for extra instructional support in reading.
 - Title II PD funds for technology initiatives and PBL.
 - Title IV for innovation—focused also on technology and PBL.
 - Family engagement policy for families affected by Title support. Looking for feedback and input before we submit it to the Board for approval.
- Response to request regarding diversity education in schools and staff training.
 - Character education

- Character Counts in ES
 - Advisory in MS
 - HS clubs such as GSA, SADD, PSIC + peer leadership
- Staff training on harassment issues and new programs such as NPH, SWPBIS.
- Curriculum
 - RELA selections, units on persecution and tolerance, especially in MS.
 - SS elective course offerings and units of study.
- Future issues to keep an eye on
 - Increase in Hispanic population and native Spanish speakers.
 - College and Career Readiness push and need to develop skills for the global workplace.
 - Safe schools: trauma-informed PD as part of state mandate.
- Preliminary look at school “rankings” and Future Ready Index.
 - NICHE
 - Ranked us as #2 in Bucks County, with an overall A+ grade (but C in diversity; B- in food). Results of parent and student surveys. So: not a particularly scientific scale. Very subjective—which isn’t a bad thing (we should care about people’s opinion)—but not the most critical set of indicators for us.
 - State assessment scores:
 - Tabled until October.
- **Public Comments (throughout the above)**
 - **Q:** As technology allows for more individualized instruction, especially at the upper grades and using individual devices, do we worry about decreased interaction with teachers and social learning within the classroom?
 - **Malone:** This is part of the spirit of the PBL initiative—forcing collaborative work, whether whole class discussions or small group project work.
 - **McKenna:** We’re all mindful of the danger of isolation with devices, and we’re all keeping an eye on it and making sure students are interacting and engaging with each other.
 - **Sheehan:** SeeSaw is creating great opportunities to collaborate. Seeing it with her own children.
 - **Q:** Are we supporting diversity and sensitivity around gender issues?
 - **Malone:** We try to hit all of it wherever it occurs—especially at the MS. We’re analyzing data on what’s happening and trying to address it as it comes up. Also being addressed in programs like SWPBIS and NPH.
 - **Q:** Re staff training, one of the issues we heard last year was that teachers sometimes didn’t know how to deal with harassment in their room.

- **Malone:** Definitely a part of the NPH and SWPBIS training, and a focus of individualized PD this year in areas where this has been new (like LES).
- **Q:** How can we better support non-traditional families and how families are discussed in the classroom (e.g., not saying “take this home to your mom and dad”)
 - **Malone:** We’re definitely aware and it’s on our minds and on our agenda. Need to increase awareness of the bias defaults in our own language.
 - **McKenna:** It’s also about knowing your kids really well, really early, so that you’re not surprised.
- **Q:** As we look at the comprehensive plan, diversity education has been a huge component for some time. Connects to citizenship and CCR issues—how we prepare students for a world that looks not-so-much like their town. Relatedly, I head anecdotally that our enrollment in Spanish classes has been dropping. Considering a rise in Hispanic population, maybe we need to take a look at it, K-12.
- **Q:** Are people aware of the state’s trauma/mental health help line: Text 741741. All kids should know about it.
- **Q:** What are the rankings and statistics you *do* look at regularly and find important and meaningful?
 - **Malone:** Participation in AP classes; SAT scores; ACT scores; state standardized test scores (though the targets have been moving around a lot in past few years—we need to wait to see where things settle down); Attendance rates of 90-100%; 4-year cohort graduation rate
- **Adjournment**
 - At 8:16



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Curriculum Advisory Meeting Sign-In

Name (Please Print)	Signature
Charles Lente	
nmw * Katie Williams	
Tracy Costigan	
Trish D'Zic	
W2 Sheehan	
Stephanie Marrone	

Please note: This sign-in sheet will be included in the meeting minutes and posted to the District's website.
Committee Meetings and topics of discussion are subject to the Sunshine Act.
Individuals serving on Committees are doing so in an advisory capacity.

