

MONTROSE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER
MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2009 7:00 P.M.

Mrs. Pam Staats
Chairman

Mr. Michael F. Ognosky
Superintendent of Schools

Curriculum Committee Meeting

I. November 12, 2009 Curriculum Committee meeting began at 7:00 PM in the Community Learning Center of the Junior-Senior High School.

II. Board Members Present: Chairperson Pam Staats, Chris Caterson, George Gow, Gloria Smith, Doug Wilcox, and Mary Homan

Administrators Present: Mike Ognosky and Don Golden

Public Present: Eric Powers

III. There were no items of Old Business discussed at this evening's meeting.

IV. There following items were discussed under New Business at this evening's meeting:

- **In-Service training of Instructional Aides in the District:**
 - Mrs. Staats began by explaining to those present that the current Pennsylvania Department of Education regulations require that Instructional Aides undergo a certification process. Fulfillment of that certification process can be achieved in three ways:
 - Attaining an Associates Degree or successfully completing 60 credit hours of undergraduate study;
 - Successfully completing an online Praxis examination;
 - Successfully completing a 10 standard certification course developed by the Department of Education and conducted, administered and certified locally. The 10 standards include the following: Foundations of Special Education, Development and Characteristics of Learners, Individual Learning Differences, Instructional Strategies, Learning Environment and Social Interaction, Language, Instructional Planning, Assessment, Professional and Ethical Practice, and Collaboration.
 - After much mathematical computation, Dr. Golden reported that we currently have 20 Instructional Aides in the District working on our Learning Support, Emotional Support and Autistic Support programs. Of those 20 Instructional Aides, 9 have Associate Degrees or 60 undergraduate hours; 7 have achieved local credentialing; 2 have completed the credentialing process and are awaiting final certification from the Department of Education; and, 2 are newly hired (within the past month) and are working on certification through the local credentialing process.
 - Mrs. Staats also explained that, after achieving certification, Instructional Aides are required to complete 20 hours of additional training per year in order to maintain their certification. That can be achieved locally and needs to be certified by Dr. Golden.
 - Dr. Golden explained that his office maintains a file on each of the Aides documenting the completion of their certification process as well as the 20 hour per year requirement for additional in-service training.
 - Mr. Ognosky explained that the district currently provides specific in-service instruction to the Instructional Aides with that in mind. Instructional Aides attend our in-service programs and can credit those hours

against the 20 required. Each in-service day allows for 5 hours of instruction. Dr. Golden will build instructional in-service activities based on the District needs as well as the 10 instructional modules currently in place allowing for all of our Instructional Aides to maintain their certification locally. Instructional Aides may also take advantage of the opportunity to complete undergraduate courses at district expense, in accordance with their current contractual agreement, in order to fulfill their requirements.

D. Open Forum – Mr. Ognosky explained that he would like the next Curriculum Committee meeting scheduled for early in the new year with the subject to be the Advanced Placement Courses offered in the District. Mr. Tallarico is currently working with the Advanced Placement teachers to “tighten” the enrollment procedures, curriculum offerings, and assessment procedures in those courses to ensure that all students are working toward the goal of achieving undergraduate credit through the successful completion of the Advanced Placement National Examinations. A meeting with the Curriculum Committee will be established and Mr. Tallarico will present to the board the plan to move toward that goal.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Mike Ognosky

Mike Ognosky, Superintendent