

## MINUTES

**Date of Meeting:** November 22, 2011

**Type of Meeting:** Work Session

**Place of Meeting:** Middle School Auditorium

**Members Present:** President Dennis Ryan  
Vice President Roy Lester  
Board Member Patrick E. Gallagher  
Board Member Gina Guma  
Board Member Darlene Tangney

**Members Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Mr. David Weiss, Superintendent  
Dr. Randie Berger, Deputy Superintendent  
Dr. Vincent Butera, Assistant Superintendent – Curriculum  
and Instruction  
Mr. Michael DeVito, Chief Operating Officer  
Mr. Joshua Anisansel, Director, Curriculum – English  
Ms. Cheriese Pemberton, Director, Curriculum, Mathematics  
Mr. Kenneth Graham, Director, Curriculum, Science  
Mr. Sean Hurley, Director, Curriculum, Social Studies  
Ms. Vivian Fiallo, Director, Whole Language and ELL  
Ms. Sally Neumann, Director, Technology  
Ms. Marcia Mulé, Director, Adult Learning & NIKE  
Dr. Gaurav Passi, Principal, High School  
Dr. Michele Natali, Principal, Middle School  
Ms. Carole Butler, District Clerk

### I. Call to Order/Pledge/Opening Remarks

President Ryan called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and led the community in the Pledge of Allegiance. Proud MS students presenting at Science Fair; congratulations on HS production “The Dining Room,” next School Board meeting on December 13, 2011 will be held at Lindell School preceded by reception at 7 PM; Policy Forums on November 30 at 8 PM and December 3 at 9:30 AM at Library; Budget Advisory Committee still forming; thanks to PTA/Principals for dinner invitation; Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

Call to Order

Superintendent Weiss suggested persons interested in participating in the World Café style forum on Public Use of Facilities contact Carole Butler; congratulations to MS on the 278 entries for science fair; congratulations to students on the research process, the authentic thinking, which is more significant than the actual boards and to the teachers.

## II. **Work Session Topic: CURRICULUM**

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Curriculum Presentation – Dr. Vincent Butera with Mr. Josh Anisansel, Ms. Cherie Pemberton, Mr. Kenneth Graham, Mr. Sean Hurley, Ms. Vivian Fiallo, Ms. Sally Neumann, Ms. Marcia Mulé, Dr. Gaurav Passi, Dr. Michele Natali

### **Mandated Requirements**

Common Core Curriculum in Math/ELA; New Teacher/Principal Evaluation System; Local Assessments, Data Inquiry Teams; and Career and College Readiness Standards.

### **Priority Areas**

Every school is on the same page, learning extends beyond school hours, students are different and need to be challenged appropriately; and building staff capacity.

### **Implemented Elementary Initiatives**

#### **Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum**

- English – Josh Anisansel – Writing portfolios, demonstration of growth, newsletters, differentiated readiness levels, enrichment
- Math- Cherie Pemberton – Envisions Program, flexibility of math levels, benchmarks, common assessments.
- Science – Kenneth Graham –K-5 focus on content and scientific skills; common assessments.
- Social Studies – Sean Hurley – K-5 redesigned to focus on central questions and themes and understanding, reading and writing.
- Foreign Language – Vivian Fiallo – development of comprehensive curriculum, K-2 language, songs and stories, upper level – project based speaking and writing.
- Technology – Sally Neumann – currently analyzing American library standards, grade level skills alignment; laboratories –Internet safety curriculum sanctioned by NYS with parent involvement.

#### **Parents as Learning Partners – Vincent Butera, Cherie Pemberton**

- All elementary schools share same curriculum– no differentiation – everything posted on-line.
- Math - Envisions Program at Lindell School on November 30 at 6:30 PM.
- Family Math Day on March 24, 2012, Family and Fun, competition throughout Nassau County.
- ELA Family Fun Night for K-12, teachers, parents also participate; strategies to use at home; 60-75 students and families attend; games and food.
- Parent/Teacher conferences – information sharing; reading levels, writing levels, portfolios.

**Rigor and Growth** – Vincent Butera, Josh Anisansel

Writing Portfolios – K-5 assessed formally at least twice during school year – unscored but useful for strategies; reading – leveled readiness program- up to 24 week intervention; Read 180 labs in every school using instructional software.

Libraries – readiness – lending and level libraries – small groups with guided reading.

**Commitment to Professional Growth** – Vincent Butera

Directors noted goals to work on for the year.

Supporting teacher capacity; evaluating that work.

Product is developed; feedback from teachers.

Creating approved document to be presented to Board of Education.

**Next Steps**

Common Core – developed teams to identify best practices at every grade to be completed by summer 2012.

**Board Member Questions/Discussion:**

- President Ryan asked about decrease in services for students/access to library given the cutting of librarians. (none)
- Vice President Lester asked about assessment/measurement of success of FLES program with no standardized testing. Ms. Fiallo discussed the creation of localized tests accepted by the state.
- On 12/3 and 12/10/11, there will be a meeting to create readiness checklist to assess students.
- Supt. Weiss suggested that foreign language performance based tasks are better tools for assessment than multiple choice testing.
- Dr. Ryan noted that 35 years ago parents selected elementary schools by specialty; asked if that will no longer be the case. Dr. Butera stated that the core is the same at all schools.
- Board Member Guma asked if the Regents for foreign languages have been eliminated (yes)
- VP Lester asked if the pacing chart measured gender differences (no) and was concerned about students all being in the same place. Ms. Pemberton explained teacher flexibility, small group instruction, and benchmarks.
- Supt. Weiss asked when/how often is whole group instruction taking place. Instruction is different today (introduce each concept- answers are the same – methods are different)

**Public Questions/Discussion:**

- Parent asked about common assessments. (currently working on that for all core subjects)
- Mr. Pine asked about core curriculum and its measurement of success; how teachers prepare/plan for the school year. (Developed from best, state curriculum, will be done by 9/12).
- Ms. Maquet asked how this was being conveyed to parents and noted that they are presently receiving booklets. (Ideally one sheet per subject area).
- Parent asked about Envision - how are groups determined? (homework assignments, extra credit problems, newsletters, components on-line)

### **Implemented Secondary Initiatives**

#### **Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum – Vincent Butera, Gaurav Passi**

- Goal is to identify for every course written essentials, skills, assessments
- Dr. Passi – common assessments have been implemented in 5 major areas; contributes to data driven culture focused on improvement; allows teachers to assess their own teaching and student learning. Re-teach to assure students achieve basic skills.

#### **Parents as Learning Partners – Michele Natali, Marcia Mulé**

- Dr. Natali- MS Task force created with 9 parents of current 6 and 7<sup>th</sup> graders which began in summer, continue to meet every month; newsletters every 5 weeks; Friday email blasts coordinated with PTA and teachers.
- Ms. Mulé created School to Business Advisory Board for career awareness and preparedness at HS and the NIKE site; form alliance with business leaders, internships locally, evaluation tool being developed; goal is for every senior to have an internship.

#### **Rigor and Growth – Gaurav Passi, Josh Anisansel, Cheriese Pemberton**

- Goal is to have college and career ready graduates. IB program aligned with common core standards; growth in college courses; 488 students enrolled in at least 1 college course; need to trace back courses to 9 and 10 grade so they are prepared for IB in 11 and 12 grades.
- Writing Portfolio, Scholastic Reading Inventory, quantitative measurement 6-10, MS -Expert 21 investigates essential questions, non-fiction text, supported by web based repository.
- Math 6-12 have common assessments; MATH COUNTS enrichment program for 6 & 7 graders.

#### **Commitment to Professional Growth – Vincent Butera, Michele Natali, Gaurav Passi**

- MS – IB – MYP – framework for whole school alignment; best practices readiness for IB; common planning times; collaboratively examining student work.

#### **Board of Education Questions/Discussion:**

- President Ryan asked about the role of administrators in the focus and supervision of instruction, individuality of teacher instruction and exams and writing in all disciplines. (more effective assessments, still some teacher latitude)
- Board Member Gallagher asked about the coordination and balancing of AP/IS/College level courses; questioned unofficial tracking; and guidance counselor awareness on the MS and HS level. (pathway to most rigorous courses, options, meetings with counselors and teachers )

#### **Public Questions/Discussion:**

- Geri Maquet asked about HS reading programs; the timely return of exams. (Scholastic)
- Ari Pine mentioned uniformity, conditions and timeframes.

**Make-up of Non-Honors Classes** – Vincent Butera, Gaurav Passi, Michele Natali

Dr. Butera explained the Newsday article regarding needs improvement lists. Disproportionate percentage of population of special needs students and black and Hispanic males are in non-honors. Need to put students on more rigorous paths; must level up.

Dr. Passi discussed the need to provide opportunities for all; challenge students, raise expectations.

Dr. Natali is leveling up at MS with redesigned instruction; extensive professional development.

Recommending 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade English and Social Studies be heterogeneously grouped next year.

Elementary students are being prepared for IB and exploring Middle Years Program.

**III. Board of Education Comments**

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Comments**

- Board Member Tangney commended Dr. Butera on his thorough and professional presentation; one of the best.
- Board Member Guma thanked Dr. Butera and all of the directors/administrators on the direction of the school district.
- Board Member Gallagher appreciates the quality of the presentation and noted the district is doing something. Asked how we know the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers are following model.
- Supt. Weiss noted collaboration; teachers take ownership of both assessments and the learning.
- Dr. Butera responded that it is ultimately about student work and viable curriculum.
- President Ryan thanked each and every employee, unions, PTA, and Board members for their hard work and services.

President Ryan called for a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:10 PM.

Motion was made by Board Member Gallagher and seconded by Board Member Guma

Approved: 5-0

\*Only Board Members, Supt. Weiss and Dr. Passi were in attendance.

**IV. President Ryan called for a motion to adjourn Work Session at 9:45 PM.**

**Motion by: Board Member Guma**

**Seconded by: Vice President Lester**

**Approved: 5-0**

**Adjournment**

Minutes submitted by:

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Carole Butler, District Clerk

December 13, 2011