



**Syracuse City School District  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Curriculum Committee Meeting  
April 24, 2008 – 4:30 p.m.**



**Committee Members Attending:**

Present: Commissioner Cindy Kirby  
Commissioner Laurie Menkin

Also Present: Commissioner Ned Deuel

**The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.**

**ACTION ITEM:**

**Social Studies 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Textbook Adoption**

Karen Markoff, Director of Curriculum and Staff Development, Dave Maynard, Field Coordinator for Social Studies, and Susan Jakubowski, teacher at Lincoln Middle School, presented the new textbook proposed for adoption for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade social studies, Holt United States History. The Holt series offered the best tools, supported differentiated instruction, aligned with New York State Standards and was visually engaging for students. Dave Maynard reported that he is working with the District's Technology Department to upgrade classroom computers with plug-ins and memory to take advantage of the interactive components offered by this series. The textbook selection process included an online survey that 48% of the social studies teacher participated in to select the Holt series. The Commissioners requested that the resolution to adopt Holt United States History move forward to the full Board of Education for their approval at their May 13, 2008 meeting.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**Schools of Promise Update**

Brian Pulvino, Director of Special Education, and Julie and George Theoharis, professors from Syracuse University presented on *Schools of Promise*, a partnership between the S.U. School of Education and SCSD. Administrators and staff from Roberts and Salem Hyde also attended the presentation, as this partnership is flourishing in these schools as well at Bellevue Elementary. *Schools of Promise* is truly a school-wide inclusionary program instilling the feeling of belonging for all students. This program is not an add-on program, but a new way of looking at how to teach. Staff is encouraged to share and work together to develop plans which promote shared responsibilities and differentiate instruction creating an inclusion community. Ongoing, in-depth professional development has been provided to all staff and will continue next year as they work together to redesign their instructional program for all students. As a result of this first year some students have done so well that they were declassified and all students are thriving.

**Quadrant Updates**

Reports updating the Board of Education Curriculum Committee were reported by Debra Schoening, Director of Elementary Education, and Gwen McKinnon, Director of Middle Level Education. Henninger Quadrant's general focus is to infuse AVID strategies into every school at every grade level. Corcoran Quadrant focus is to implement the International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Program into the three quadrant middle schools and Corcoran High School. Fowler Quadrant focus is on English language learners (ELLs), Successful Practices Network and transition planning through West Side Strategy. Nottingham Quadrant is focusing on Highly Effective Teaching (HET) practices formerly known as Integrated Thematic Instruction (ITI), and making all transitions in the Quadrant schools smooth.

## **Update – Alternative Education Plans**

### **Beard Re-Design**

Steve Gramet, Director of Pupil Services and Gwen McKinnon, Director of Middle Level Education presented on the phase out of 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Beard School. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade students who would normally go to Beard will be assigned to a classroom at one of two middle school sites where intensive academic and socio-emotional programming will be provided. Two teachers, mathematics and English, will be assigned to each classroom with social studies and science being integrated into those content areas. AVID strategies will be infused into the instruction and counseling services will be a part of the program. Group Homebound and individual homebound will be utilized for serious offenses.

### **Assessment Center**

Steve Gramet presented on a proposed Assessment Center for students who are sent to Superintendents Hearings. The Center will assess students' social/emotional, personal, vocational and academic needs in order to decide which educational option suits individuals. The assessment will be conducted by a school psychologist, counselor and/or social worker. The information provided will help to identify strategies which will aid staff in making good decisions that will lead to students' returning to regular educational programming. The commissioners requested Board of Education action and a resolution for the implementation of the assessment center and re-design of Beard for the May 13, 2008 Board of Education meeting.

At the end of the meeting, Kate McKenna, STA President, expressed concerns to the Commissioners regarding Promotional Practices, final exams and Regents exams. The concerns will be brought to Deputy Superintendent Vogelsang who had to leave the meeting for another meeting at 5:50 p.m...

**The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

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**Sheila J. Johnson**