



**Syracuse City School District
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Curriculum Committee Meeting
May 21, 2008 – 3:30 p.m.**



Committee Members Attending:

Present: Commissioner Dr. Cindy Kirby
Commissioner Laurie Menkin

Also Present: Commissioner Ned Deuel
Commissioner Kim Rohadfox-Cesar
Commissioner Nancy McCarty

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS:

Summer In-Service Courses

Karen Markoff, Director of Curriculum and Staff Development presented the in-service courses for summer 2008. These courses were reviewed and approved by the Professional Development Committee before coming to the Board of Education Curriculum Committee. It was recommended that this item move forward to the Board of Education meeting on June 11th.

Institute of Technology @ Syracuse Central Curriculums

The 10th Grade Human Science Curriculum and 10th Grade Talent Development Curriculum for the Institute of Technology at Syracuse Central were presented by Jill Stewart, Coordinator, Health Careers for implementation in the fall of 2008. The 10th Grade Talent Development extends the program offered to this year's 9th grade students previously approved the Board of Education in 2007. The Human Sciences curriculum was developed from materials from the Career and Technical Educational Curriculum Consortium and Central New York Area Health Education Center. Both curriculums were reviewed by the Board of Education and they were recommended to move forward to the Board of Education meeting on June 11th.

LeMoyne College Courses for High School & Summer ESF Course

Karen Markoff, Director of Curriculum and Staff Development presented two courses, CHM 122 (Chemistry and the Consumer) and ECO 205 (Economics of Public Policy) to be offered to our students as dual credit college courses from LeMoyne College in the fall of 2008. There is also a summer dual credit course that will be offered to our students at SUNY ESF for seniors who are interested. Course curriculums were reviewed by the Board of Education and it was recommended to move forward to the Board of Education meeting on June 11th.

ELA Textbook Adoption – Grades 6-12

Karen Markoff, Director of Curriculum and Staff Development and Ella Briand, Field Coordinator, ELA presented the recommended textbook for ELA, Grades 6-12, **The Glencoe Literature Series (6-12)**. A teacher survey was conducted by IT after all textbook companies presented their series at separate presentations. The consensus of the textbook committee was that Glencoe materials were significantly rated higher by survey participants. The textbooks were reviewed by the Board of Education and it was recommended to move forward to the Board of Education meeting on June 11th.

Say Yes Initiative

Maryanne Schmidt-Carey, President of *Say Yes to Education* presented a description of the partnership formed between SCSD, the non-profit organization Say Yes, and Syracuse University with the support of the NYS Governor's Office and Education Department and the City of Syracuse. This model focuses on opportunity through educational excellence for all and supplying the necessary support systems to enable all students to attend and graduate from post-secondary educational programs. The partnership will begin in the schools in the Corcoran Quadrant in 2008-09 and will be followed by the Fowler, Henninger and Nottingham Quadrants respectively in the following three years. This project will provide tutoring, summer programming, and increased social service supports for students and professional development for staff. Students graduating in June 2009 will have the opportunity to attend SUNY/CUNY colleges and identified private colleges with reduced or no tuition. This is a very exciting partnership that will create systemic educational reform and economic development.

ITEMS PROMOTING DISTRICT GOALS

Rap, Rhythm & Rhyme

The "Rebuilding the Writing Foundation" (Erik Cork) program was incorporated in 24 of our elementary, K-8 and middle schools. Over 1,100 teachers have received professional development on critical writing strategies and 1,000s of students have participated in his presentations. Students performed examples of how they are integrating what they learned from Mr. Cork's presentation into their daily instructional program using rap and rhyme, writing and how the process teaches students to excel in their lives.

Alternative Education Program Update

Steve Gramet, Director of Pupil Services presented an update on alternative education programs. The Alternative Programs Task Force has updated their recommendations brought to the Curriculum Committee in November 2007. The Twilight Credit Recovery Center opened at the Johnson Center in April 2008 and currently has 15 students. Carnegie, Beard and Fowler started using the Plato program this week and Henninger has looked at using it next year for startup. The new Expeditionary Learning School will open in September 2008 with training beginning this summer. Students will be assessed and tested using the resulting data for placement at the new assessment center opening in the fall. The Board of Education Curriculum Committee members requested a January update with supporting data on the Plato Credit Recovery Program.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila J. Johnson