

April & May 2017 CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair: Tammy Clark clark_9301@verizon.net
Subcommittee Chairs: Amanda Graver – Elementary
Jamahl Johnson – Middle School
Cynthia Simonson – High School

Events:

May 1st OCIP meeting - Tammy, Amanda & Cynthia, along with Kim Testa from the GT Committee, met with Curriculum, Niki Hazel, MCPS Director of Elementary Curriculum, and Ben OuYang, MCPS Director of Career Readiness and Innovative Programs. The Curriculum Committee meets with OCIP staff several times throughout the year in order to share issues being raised by parents and students concerning curriculum and instruction, and to learn of MCPS curriculum changes, updates and events.

The following issues were discussed:

Proposed Maryland Legislation: Erick Lang brought to our attention pending legislation recently presented by the Maryland state legislature *House Bill 461 or Senate Bill 452* (Education – Accountability Program – Assessments [More Learning, Less Testing Act of 2017]) that would require all school districts to limit the total time allotted for all state and local BOE mandated assessments to 2.2% of a student’s total learning hours per school year. This legislation is likely to pass and become effective on July 1, 2017. The limit applies only to required assessments by local school boards (MCPS) and those required by Maryland Department of Education. The limit does **not** include SAT, ACT, AccuTest, Advanced Placement or IB exams. The limit also does not include teacher-developed assessments.

MCPS has no control over the state mandated assessments of PARCC, HSAs (High School Assessments) and MISA (Maryland Integrated Science Assessment.) MCPS central office staff have been, and will continue reviewing and gathering feedback regarding the MCPS mandated assessments such as MAP tests, RQAs, et al., at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Currently, the combined time spent by students on MCPS mandated assessments and the state assessments may exceed the limit of 2.2%. MCPS staff will continue to evaluate how to accommodate the reduction of mandated assessments for the 2017-18 school year.

The committee will be updated as to assessment changes at our meeting in June.

Mathematics: We continued our discussion regarding concerns with the middle school math pathways, in particular, the goal to have all students “successfully complete” Algebra I or higher by 8th grade. Algebra I is the on-grade level math curriculum for 9th grade. MCPS is making it the default curriculum for grade 8. In order to accomplish this, some middle schools have taken

the approach of eliminating on-grade-level Math 7 and Math 8, in favor of offering only 7 IM (Investigations in Math) and Algebra I.

The elimination of on grade level Math 7 and 8, means that all students will be enrolled in math courses for which some students will need significant supports, including extra staffing in a classroom, or even double period math classes. The double classes would require students to give up electives in the years they must be in double period math.

We asked and are waiting for identification of the middle schools which did not offer Math 7 and/or Math 8 this school year, and those planning on eliminating these courses for next year. Scott Murphy identified 9 middle schools that currently do not have any students enrolled in Math 8 for next school year. The list is: Baker, Clemente, Farquhar, Gaithersburg, Hallie Wells, Neelsville, Ridgeview, Shady Grove, and White Oak. Scott did point out that it is still early with regards to scheduling for next year, and that this may change. Also, this does not include any middle school which may only offer Math 7 & 8 for students in self-contained programs, not the general ed population.

The committee will continue to follow up with Erick Lang and his staff as to how MCPS is addressing our concerns.