Curriculum Committee Report Submitted by: Michelle Gluck

December 2021 curriculum@mccpta.org

**Meetings/Calls/Events**

11/10 AEI Feedback Council

11/10 BOD Meeting

11/12 Curriculum Committee meeting

11/14 OCIP/Curriculum meeting

**Upcoming**

12/7 MSDE GTAC meeting

12/8 AEI Feedback Council

12/10 Curriculum Committee meeting

1/12/22 OCIP/Curriculum meeting

**Key Developments**

1. **Meeting reboots**
2. Curriculum Committee begins internal meetings

The Curriculum Committee met on Nov. 12 and will meet monthly through the remainder of the school year. At the Nov. 12 meeting, we discussed representatives’ frustrations with curriculum implementation during the virtual learning year and beyond, and particularly frustrations with the Benchmark Advance ELA curriculum. We also discussed the implementation (or lack thereof) of MCPS systemwide secondary grading guidance, and variability in assessments. The next (virtual) meeting of the Curriculum Committee is **Friday, Dec. 10** at 12 pm. Anyone interested in attending can contact me at Curriculum@mccpta.org to be added to the invitation list.

1. Resumption of meetings with MCPS Administrators
2. OCIP

The Curriculum Committee met on November 15 with Associate Superintendent Niki Hazel and members of the OCIP staff. This was our first meeting since June 2021, although we had asked for a summer meeting back in June and expected the (previously) monthly meetings to resume in September. Highlights of the discussion include:

* MCPS is expanding use of 1:1 tutoring for pandemic recovery
* MCPS is conducting audit of ESOL program – vendor has been hired to do this.
* OCIP is writing a ‘winter newsletter” to discuss curriculum news
* Benchmark Advance contract is up for renewal and OCIP is conducting its usual “three year review” of its efficacy. There will be a one-year extension while the three-year review is compiled and considered.
* Math pathways are under comprehensive review and while no decisions have been made yet, there is a lot of energy around eliminating compacted tracks in elementary school and creating new pathways in middle school.

MCPS representatives in this group raised the following concerns:

* We don’t see a lot of transparency around curriculum audits and reviews, and in particular, very little data on student performance.
* Regarding Benchmark in particular, parents have a lot of concerns about the materials (e.g., the absence of any actual books!) and lack of parent access to curriculum materials because of proprietary copyright concerns. We feel that a public school system should not be using curriculum materials that can’t be shared with parents.
* We are hearing a lot of complaints about MCPS grading guidance not being implemented with fidelity in schools. Scott said Carver isn’t hearing much on this subject; Cynthia offered to invite him to a Delegates’ Assembly to correct for that.
1. AEI

Dr. Debra Mugge, the “Interim Supervisor” of AEI, held a 1-hour inaugural reboot meeting of the AEI Feedback Council. This meeting will be addressed more thoroughly in the GEC monthly report, but I will note that the “long-timers” on this council, of which I am one, joined with Audra and the GEC asking for more transparency on where the “feedback” will go and who makes decision on the issues that are raised in these meetings. Issues covered (briefly) included our recurring frustration with the fact that AEI’s resources and guidance are all considered optional by schools and their overseers. Jeannie Franklin of DCCAPS showed a very old chart about expansion of magnet programing (which was misleading) and a chart that purported to report the number of students from underrepresented groups that were “placed” in GT programs but actually showed how many such students were identified or invited to participate in those programs, which was also misleading.

The participants asked for more than an hour. The next meeting will be December 8 for 90 minutes.

1. **Curriculum products under review**

As described above, the Benchmark curriculum and the ESOL programming are under review in the coming year. We encourage parents and guardians with thoughts and concerns about them to speak up. The Curriculum Committee is happy to collect feedback. For now, please send to the curriculum committee email.