Curriculum Director's Report

May 19, 2010

Community Forum

Thank you to the following parents, students, and staff who attended the April 22 Community Forum: Lisa Jones, Brenda Glass, Emily Gedenberg, Eric Constable, Wendy Chord and Mark Mansell. Committee members: Julie Smith, Becky Griffee, Joyce Mosby, Josh Soske, Warren Westerberg, Amy Neiman, Sue Pershall, Dave Holmes, and David Cooke. The time, questions and input is sincerely appreciated.

Adoptions

Attached is a letter requesting approval of materials reviewed by the District Instructional Materials Committee at the May 5 meeting. This includes a variety of supplemental materials for the new integrated social studies/language arts class in the middle school and texts for two pilot courses at the high school, AP Biology and Human Anatomy. The committee voted to delay the approval of two late submissions which they had not had time to review. As a result, another meeting is scheduled for June 9 at 3:15 PM in the MS Conference Room. Thank you to the committee members for their careful consideration of materials and their willingness to meet one more time before the close of the school year.

Both the K-5 and middle school social studies teams are continuing to search out and review potential materials that align with the district learning model and meet the Ends. Although some supplemental materials that meet our needs have been identified, published textbooks are not as promising. This is a concern especially for teachers at the elementary who teach multiple subjects. Therefore teams have agreed to continue their work for another year with some consideration of investigating the possibilities of integrating content using themes. The challenge will be finding the time to collaborate in order to develop these lessons. Being out of the classroom creates its own set of challenges. Even with excellent substitutes, there is some loss of learning. Hopefully we will be able to identify other possibilities for teachers to work together throughout the year.