Committee: Instructional

Date: March 28, 2012

Board members present: Jennifer Patterson, Chair; Chris Casko, Clint Cogswell, Barbara Higgins

Other Board member(s): Kass Ardinger

Staff: CHS Principal Gene Connolly, CHS Curriculum Facilitators Tamara Hatcher, Denise Fournier, Stacy Boyajian, Lise Bofinger; Central Office Administrators Donna Palley, Chris Rath

Jennifer Patterson opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Gene Connolly introduced the curriculum facilitators, who made a presentation about ways in which the high school is proposing to extend instruction in core areas next year. Mr. Connolly outlined the goals that all students will be taught a challenging curriculum; the high school will provide options for extending instruction to meet differing student needs. The curriculum facilitators will describe three approaches proposed for next year to extend instruction: extended classes, collaborative teaching and blended learning.

Math Curriculum Facilitator Tammy Hatcher described the extended class model, currently in use in Math. In this model, freshmen taking Discovering Algebra have an extra 45 minutes of instruction times a week for pre-teaching and re-teaching concepts and skills taught in the core algebra class. She proposed that Math continue this model in 2012-2013. Stacey Boyajian proposed that Social Studies also offer one period of the extended class for US History. Lise Bofinger proposed that Science offer an extended class for Biology and one for Chemistry.

Ms. Hatcher introduced the second model of collaborative teaching, in which there an additional teacher would be available during the two blocks when there are multiple sections of algebra to provide for flexible grouping of students during that block. English Department Coordinator Denise Fournier proposed that English implement the collaborative teaching model during two blocks when multiple sections of English 9 are scheduled. The additional teacher would enable flexible grouping of students, as well as opportunities for small group work, seminars, extended learning opportunities, and perhaps online learning, for students who want to pursue a particular passion as well as students who need support.

Ms. Bofinger introduced a blended learning approach and proposed that the Science department offer the equivalent of one period of blended learning next year in which
students meet with the teacher several times a week and also engage in “any time learning” online.

Assistant Superintendent Donna Palley noted that indicators of success would include more students passing classes and fewer students repeating classes; more successful and engaged students with fewer disciplinary incidents; more students with strong foundational skills; and an increased number of students ready for advanced high school work and post-secondary education. The Superintendent reviewed the proposed increases and decreases in FTE for each department. The net result would be no change in the total FTE for the high school. (Art: +.2; Science: +.4; Music: +.2; English: -.2; Spanish: -.6)

The Committee approved a motion (4-0) to accept the staffing plan as presented.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Patterson, Chair
Chris Rath, Recorder